

# **SWM Webinar Series**

## **Large Infrastructure Investments in the Global South**



# Topics Overview

Welcoming remarks.

## 1. Conceptual Introduction.

- What are large infrastructure investments in SWM?
- Large investment needs and priorities.

## 2. Deep dive: Focus on Technical Aspects.

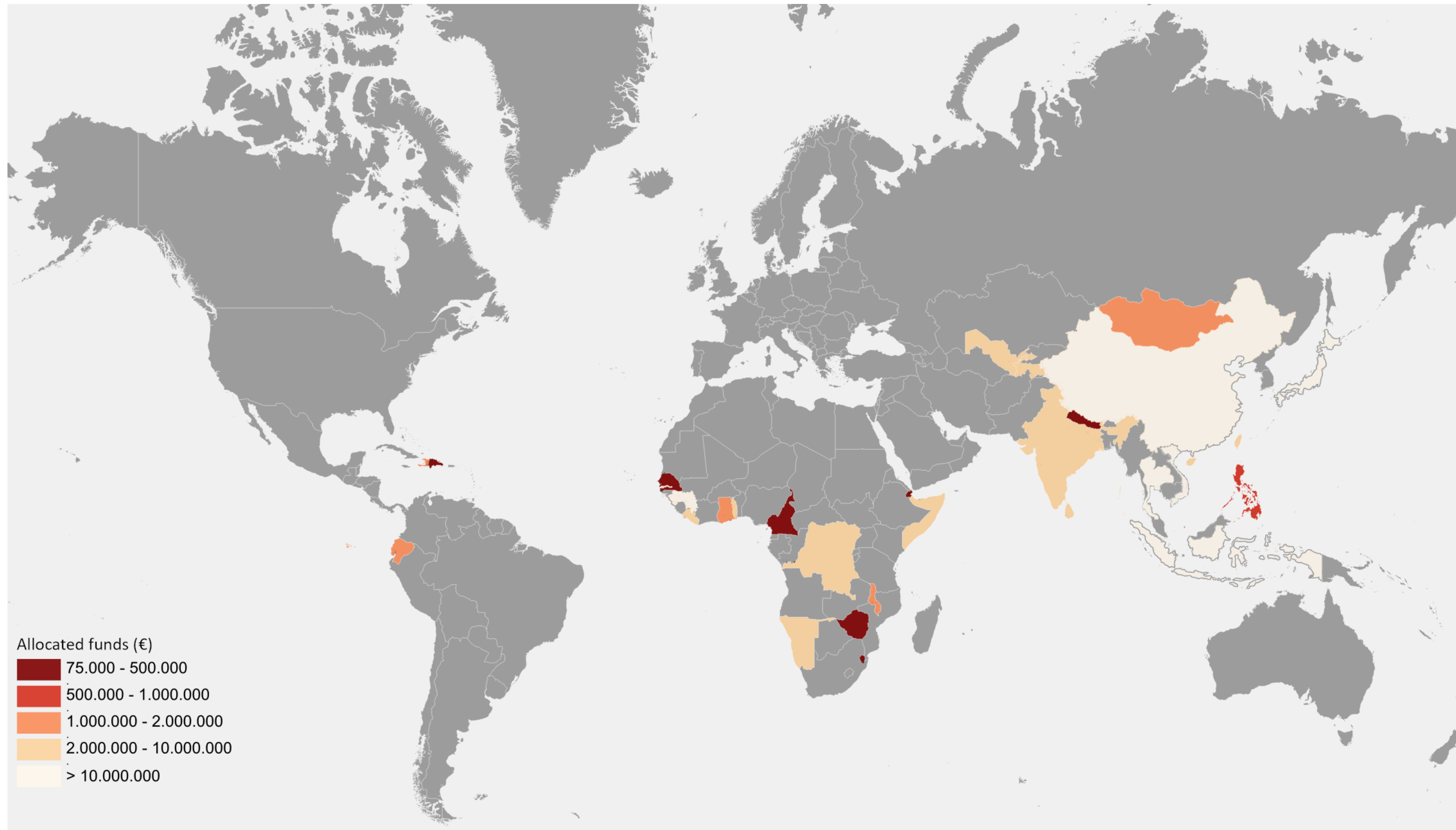
- Technical systems and facilities
- Data and planning
- Costs
- What does success rely upon?

## 3. Ask the Expert Session.



# Overview of INTPA SWM projects

Cameroon  
China  
Comoros  
Congo D.R.  
Djibouti  
Dominican Rep.  
Ecuador  
Eswatini  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea, Rep.  
Haiti  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan



Liberia  
Malawi  
Mongolia  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Philippines  
Senegal  
Singapore  
Somalia  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Togo  
Vietnam  
Zimbabwe

# Overview of Urban Development Facility (UDTF) missions on SWM

Country	Topic
Guinea Conakry	Quick assessment of current program through stakeholders' workshop
Guinea Bissau	Diagnostic for program definition
Angola	Diagnostic for AD preparation
Mauritania	Recommendations for implementation plan of new SWM law
Zambia	Engagement and training for private sector – CE/waste valorisation
Cameroun	Formulation of SWM action – focus on plastic waste
Jamaica	Diagnostic for AD preparation
SSA	Analysis of presence of EU private sector

# Conceptual Introduction

Large infrastructure investments  
in SWM



# Topics Overview

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## 1. Conceptual Introduction.

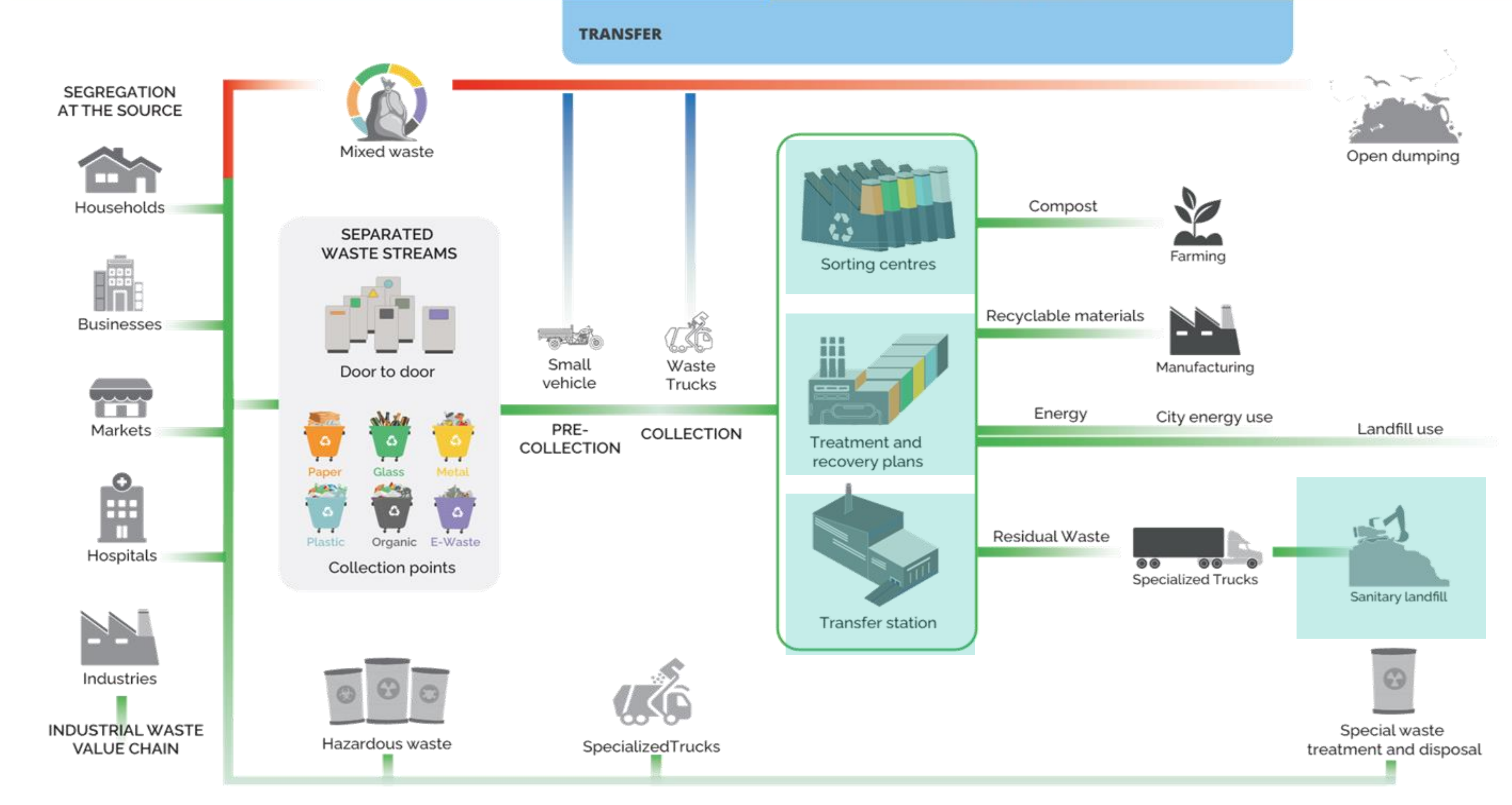
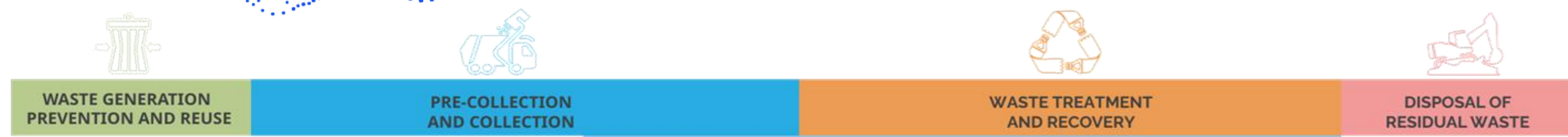
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Large Infrastructure Investments in SWM are strategic for providing a failsafe for city health, environment and economic prosperity.

Large Infrastructure Investments are materialized in facilities towards the end of the SWM service/value chains.



# Large Investment Types

**LANDFILLS**

Basic Services

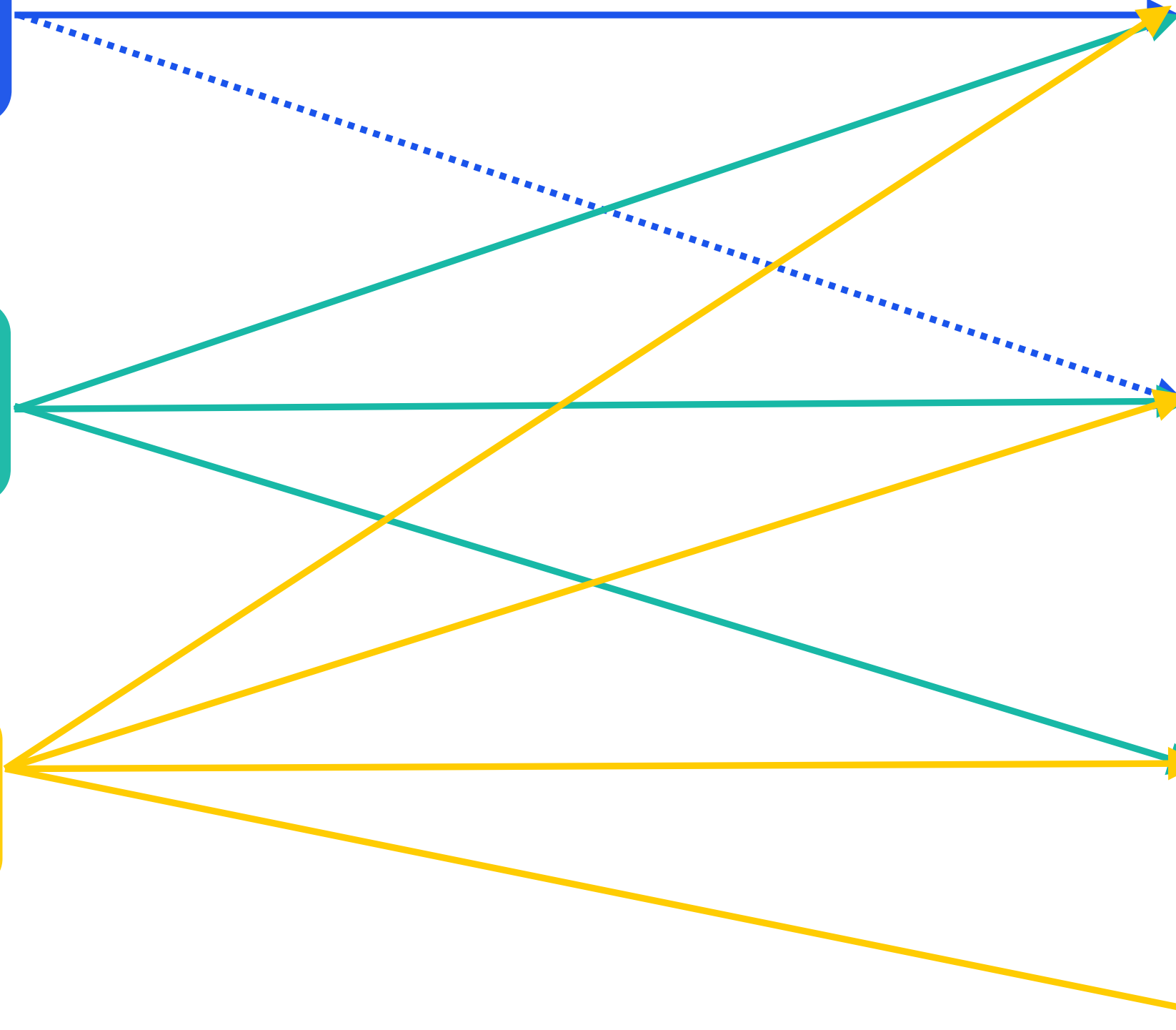
**INCINERATORS**

Energy and Fuel

**RECOVERY FACILITIES**

Diversion of Waste from Landfill

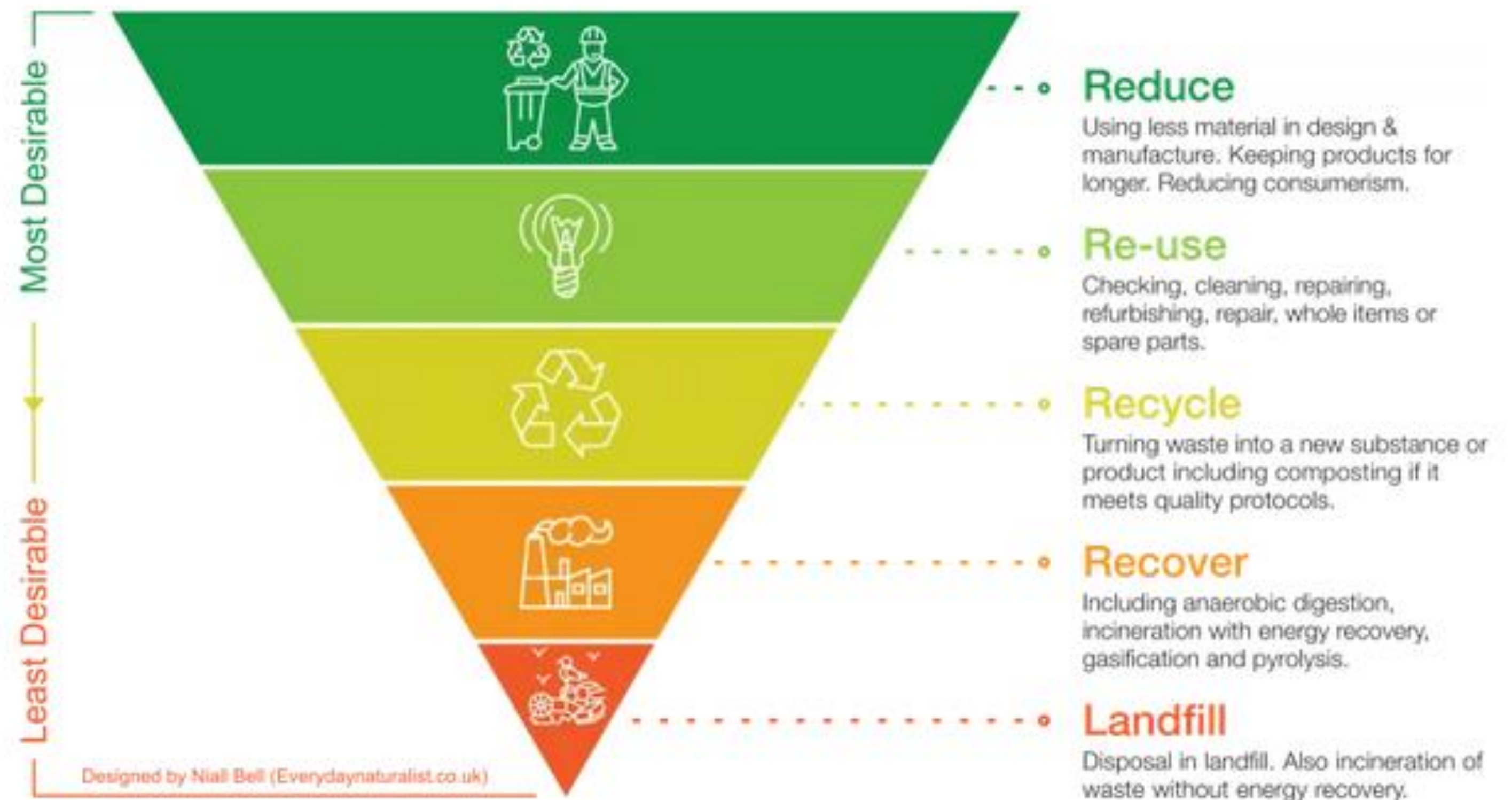
Circular Economy





# Large Investments considering the Waste Hierarchy

- **Large Infrastructure Investments** in SWM usually appear as an **end of pipe technology** and should only happen after reduce-reuse-recycle activities have been successfully implemented.
- **Landfills are** in case **necessary but should be reduced** as much as possible, in number and size.
- **Waste-to Energy** plants should also **only come when nothing else** has turned out to be **feasible or** in case of very **large daily waste quantities** (a couple of thousand of tons).





## LANDFILL

A **landfill** is a secure site for disposal of waste under controlled operational and environmental conditions



# INCINERATOR

An **incinerator** is a thermal recovery facility where waste is combusted under controlled operational and environmental conditions



Tunnel composter



Trommel screen used in mechanical recovery facilities



Anaerobic digestion facility

## RECOVERY FACILITIES

Other **recovery facilities**, such as materials recovery facilities, composters, anaerobic digesters or mechanical biological treatment facilities extract materials, prepare fuels, or stabilise waste prior to disposal

# Transfer Stations

- Facilities that interface between the collection and recovery/disposal systems.
- They can be included in large infrastructure investment projects, as a supporting component to improve logistics and reduce system costs



# Combined transfer and materials recovery

- The informal recycling sector is very active in the Global South.
- Transfer stations can be combined with materials recovery facilities.

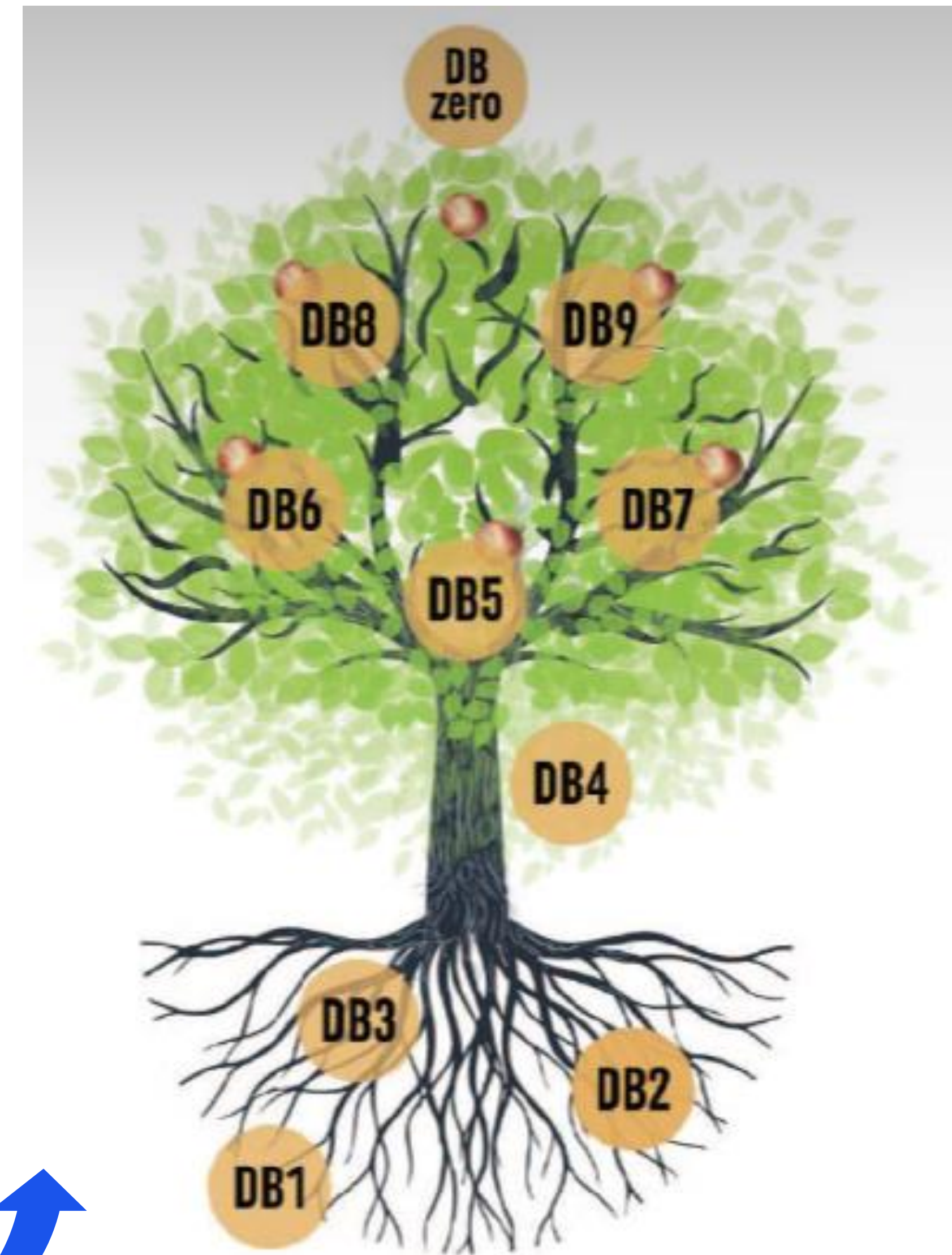


# What are the *SWM* investment needs and priorities in the Global South?



# The Nine Development Bands (9DBs)

- There are nine distinguished stages in developing waste management systems.
- Europe is leading waste management globally, with many countries settled into the upper branches
- In the Global South, the majority of cities are still in the 'roots' of the **tree**.



Source: Whiteman et al (2021): The Nine Development Bands at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0734242X211035926>





# Opportunities and Challenges

## Opportunities

- In the Global South, focus is on providing basic services – landfills
- MRF/Composting as recovery steps, but mainly at a lot level, involving informal sector
- There is an interest to treat waste to reduce disposal, but cost-wise it is still a challenge, looking at the low collection level

## Challenges

- Institutional weaknesses
- Managerial capacities
- Financial potential
- Low waste collection efficiency
- Other pressing needs such as water supply, wastewater treatment, etc.

# The Nine Development Bands (9DBs)

- **DB1**

<30% collection, 0% managed in controlled facilities.

- **DB2**

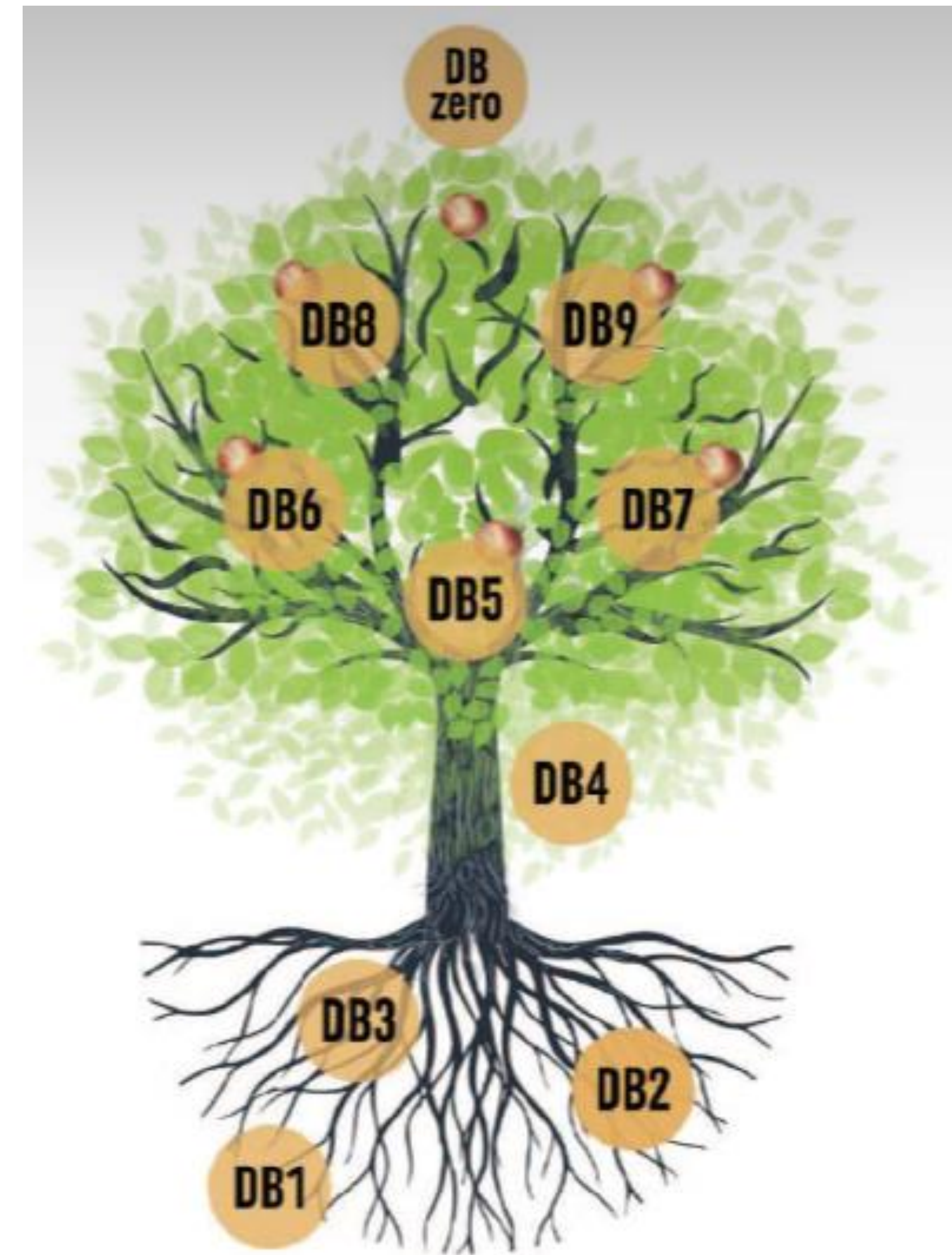
<30-60% collection, <20% managed in controlled facilities.

- **DB3**

<60-80% collection, 50% managed in controlled facilities.

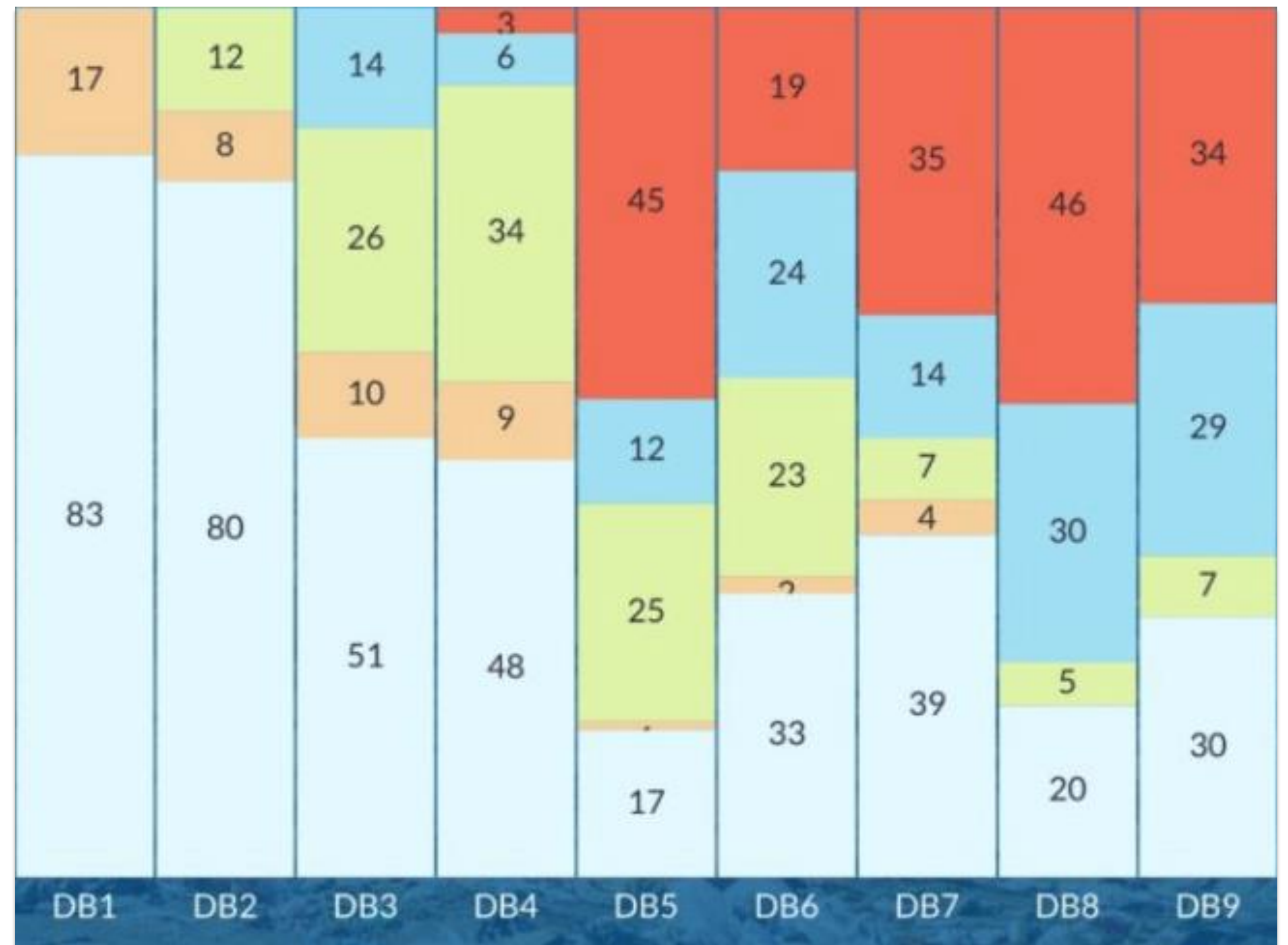
- **DB4**

<80-95% collection, 95% managed in controlled facilities.



# Percentage of Investment by Component

- Collection and Transfer
- Disposal upgrading and closure
- Regional facilities (**Landfill and composting**)
- Regional facilities (**MBT**)
- Regional facilities (**Thermal recovery**)



# City examples

DB	City, Country	Waste generation (t/d)	Collection service coverage	Managed in controlled facilities
1	Kinshasa, DRC	10,661	2%	1%
	Homa Bay, Kenya	76	26%	0%
2	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	5,800	36%	1%
	Lagos, Nigeria	11,349	48%	8%
3	Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana	165	61%	0%
	Cape Coast, Ghana	166	63%	0%
4	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2,178	94%	5%
	Dakar, Senegal	1,426	95%	1%



# Critical needs at different development stages

## **DB1**

Basic collection systems, early circular economy.

## **DB3**

Further expand collection, upgrade recovery and disposal facilities.

## **DB2**

Expand collection, improve operational management at disposal sites.

## **DB4**

Extend to full collection coverage, ensure controlled management.

# Quiz n.1



Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code **5671 99**

Which SWM facilities offer the **greatest potential** for E infrastructure projects in the Global South?

CP

Account



Content



Design



Settings



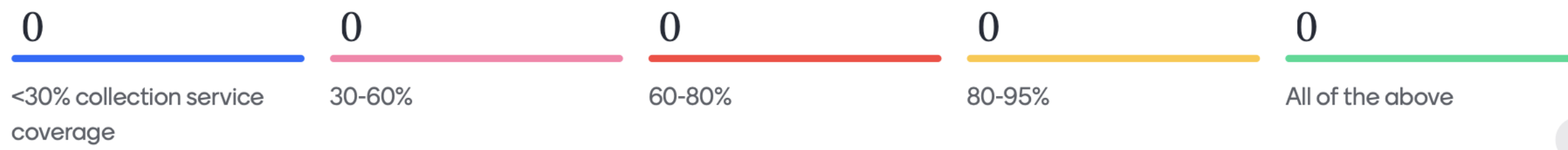
Help &  
Feedback

# Quiz n.2

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code 5671 9905



When is the 'sweet spot' for **programming** large infrastructure projects?



CP  
Account

Content

Design

Settings

Help & Feedback

# Deep Dive

**Technical aspects of large  
infrastructure investments in SWM**





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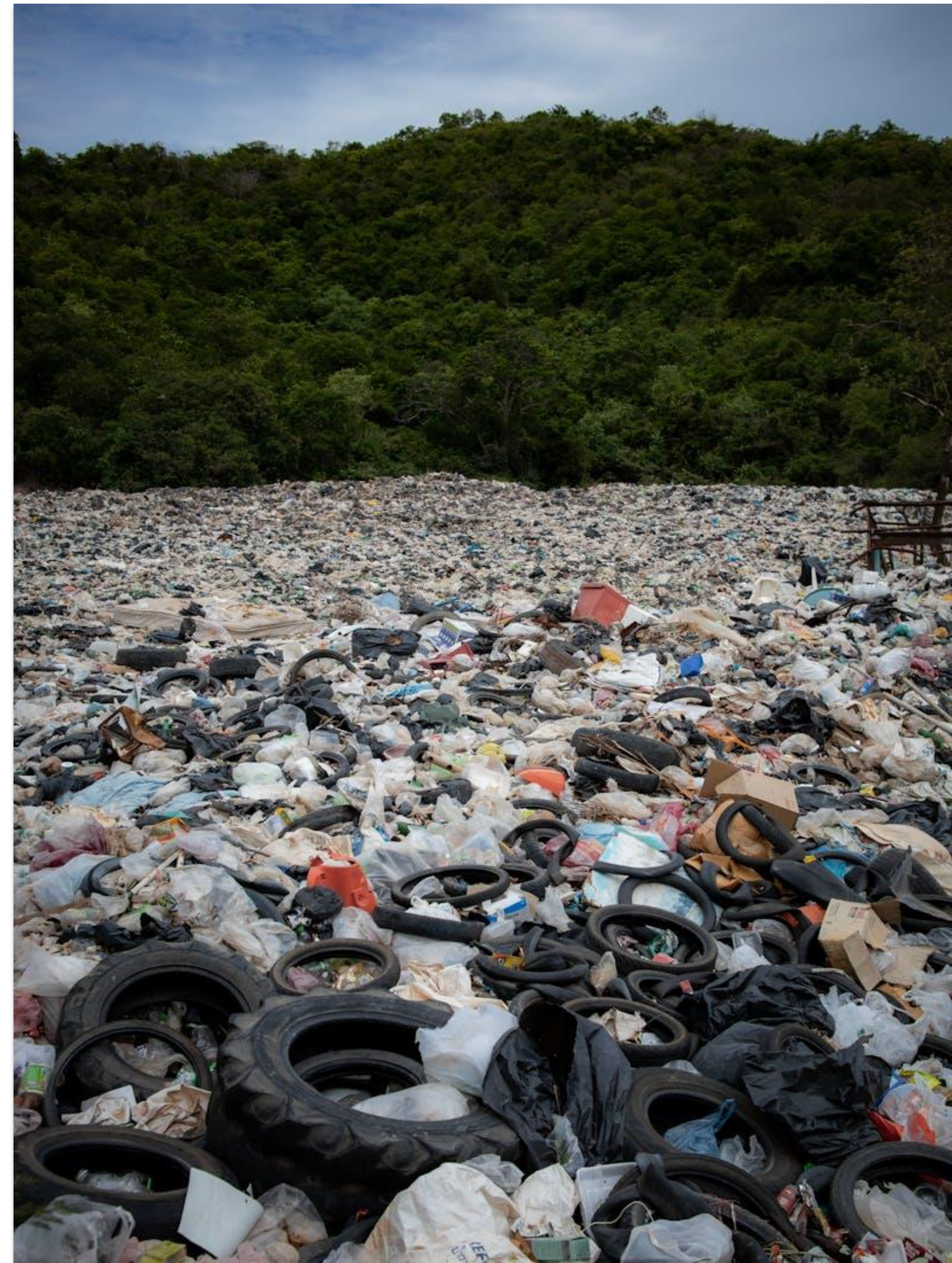


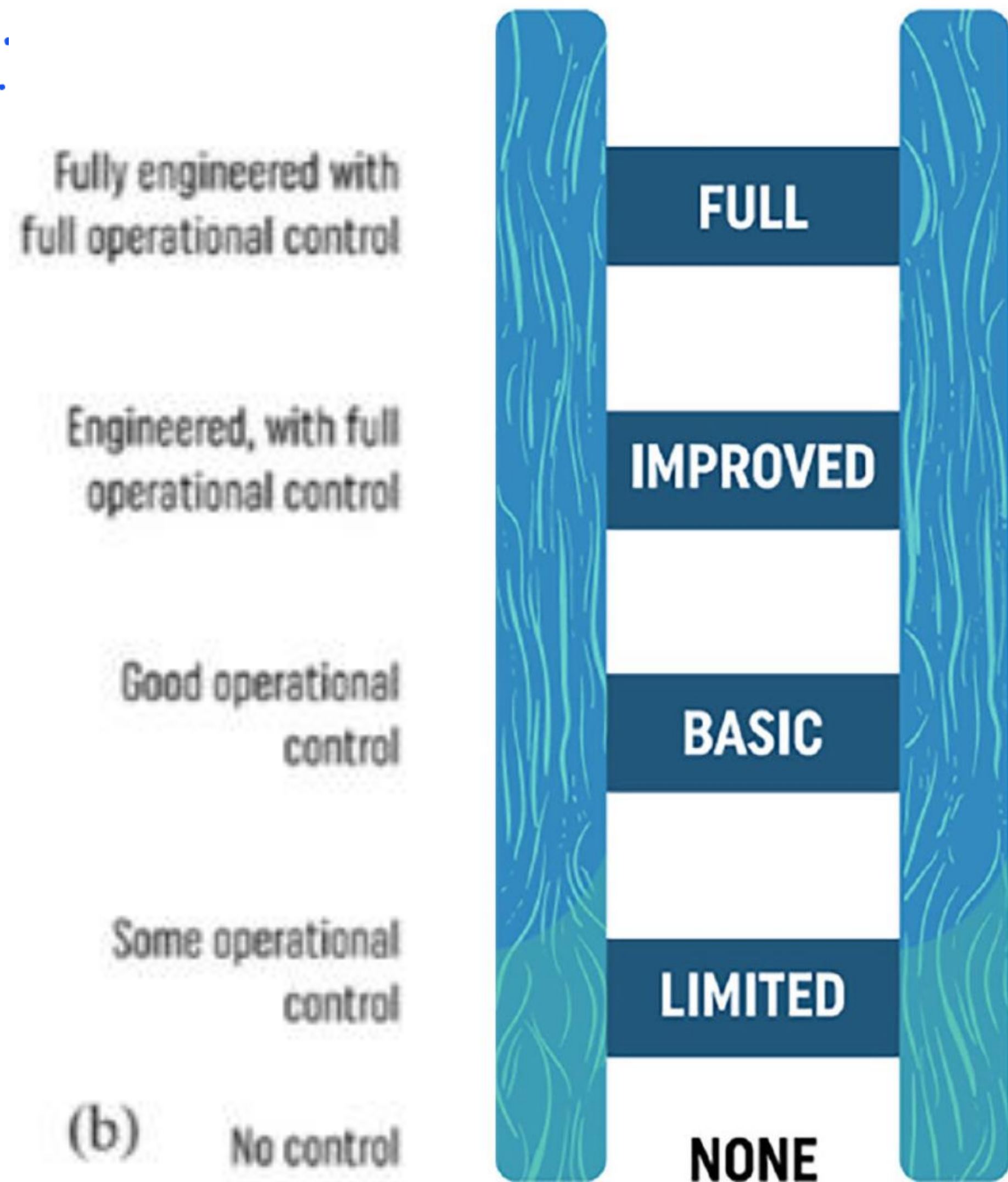
# Landfill Standards



# Why Landfills?

- **Uncontrolled disposal** is the standard practice in most countries in the Global South
- Whilst zero waste is a long-term goal, **safe disposal** will be needed in the **medium-long term**
- **Sanitary landfill** is the least costly environmentally sound management options
- Direct benefits include **job opportunities** and **energy** from landfill gas

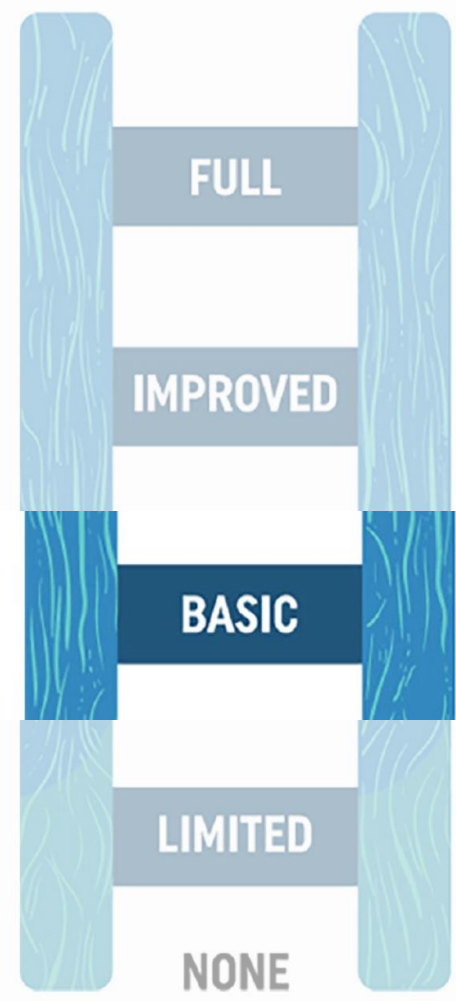




## Disposal 'ladder of control'

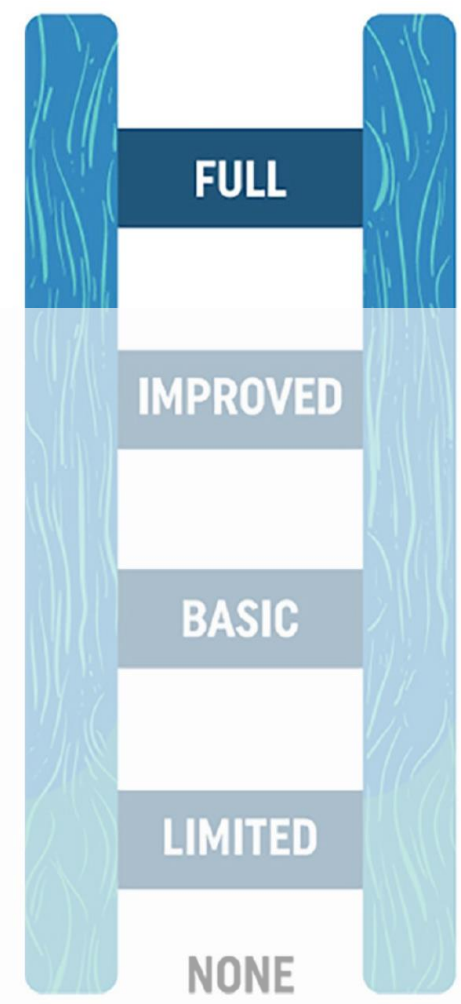
- European practice is Full control, or **Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)**
- These standards took many years of development to reach
- Need to focus also on upgrading existing disposal sites to basic control
- Then have momentum to move upwards in the ladder

# Basic controlled landfill

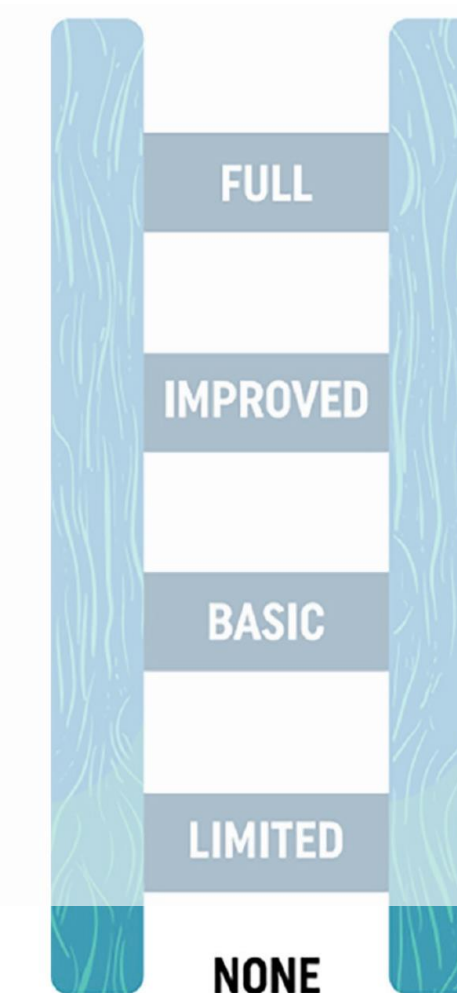


<b>Basic Control</b>	Security	» Boundary and access control allowing single point of supervised access
	Water control	» Perimeter drainage maintained around the site
	Slope stabilization	» Slopes stabilized, mitigating risk of landslides
	Waste handling, compaction and cover	» Waste trucks directed to specific operational area of disposal » Heavy mechanical equipment reliably available » Waste layered and compacted within the specific operational area » Some use of cover material
	Fire control	» Zero evidence of burning of waste on the surface of the landfill
	Staffing	» Site staffed during operational hours
	Recording	» Functional weighbridge in use
	EHS	» Basic personal protective equipment in use » Toilets and hand washing stations
	Site planning	» Site drawing showing landfill boundary and filling area in place

# Full control (ESM) landfill



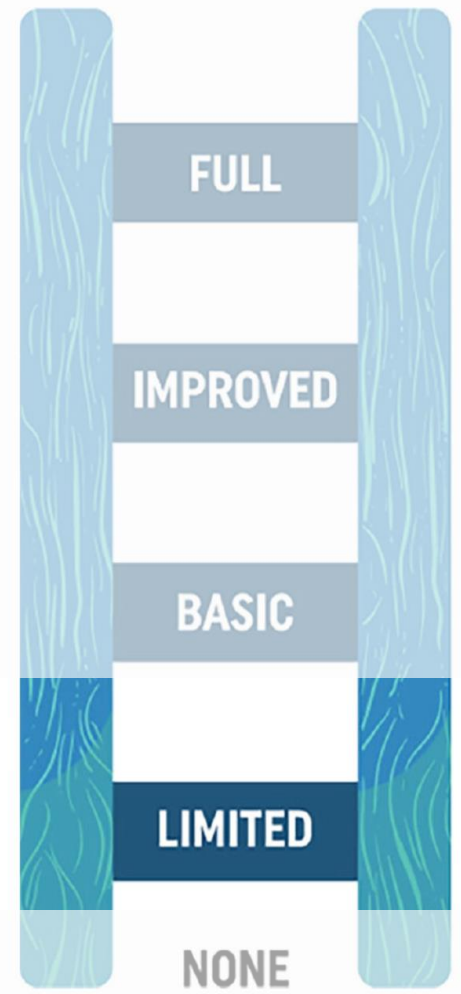
Full Control	Security	» Physical boundary surrounding the site and supervised access control 24/7
	Water and leachate control	» Site engineering preventing surface and groundwater ingress into the landfill » Functioning leachate containment and management
	Slope stabilization	» Slopes stabilized, including erosion control, to mitigate risk of landslide
	Waste handling, compaction and cover	» Waste deposited in clearly defined operational areas with strict management control » Waste layered and compacted promptly » Daily and intermediate cover applied
	Fire control	» Zero evidence of burning of waste on the surface of the landfill
	Landfill gas management	» Landfill gas controlled with utilization where practicable
	Staffing	» Site staffed full-time with professionally qualified personnel
	Recording	» Functional weighbridge in use with recording waste quantities by waste types
	Environment Health and Safety (EHS)_	» EHS measures implemented in accordance with professional risk assessment and operating plan » Showering and sanitary facilities » Environmental monitoring system in place with annual reporting capability
	Site planning	» Site development and operational filling plan in place » Post closure plan in place



## **NO CONTROL:**

- No staff.
- No layering or compacting.

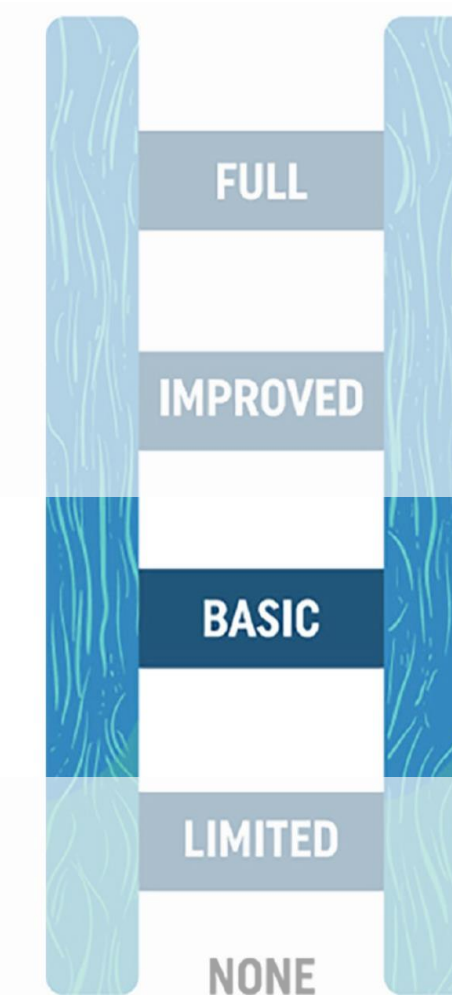
- No weighing or recording of waste deliveries.
- No access control.
- Evidence of more than limited burning of waste.



**LIMITED CONTROL:**

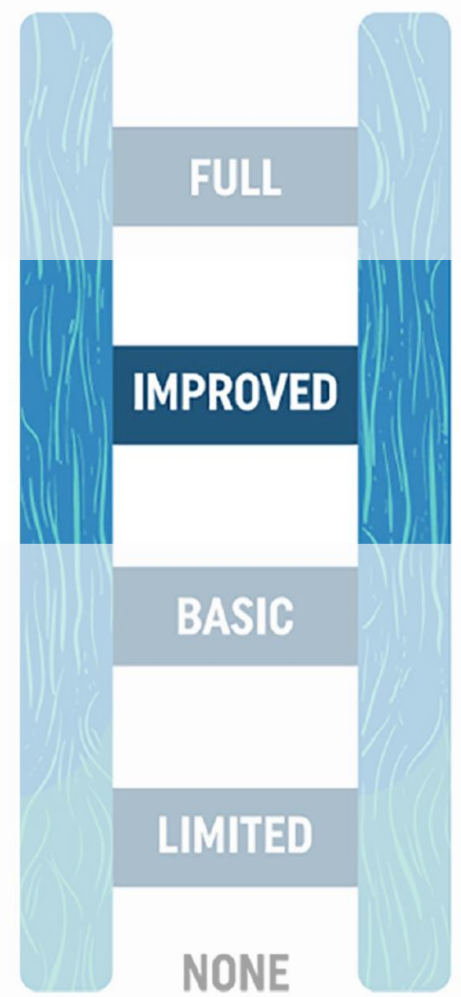
- Some compaction.
- Some compaction equipment.
- Some level of access control.
- Waste deliveries normally weighed and recorded.
- Minimal evidence of burning waste.





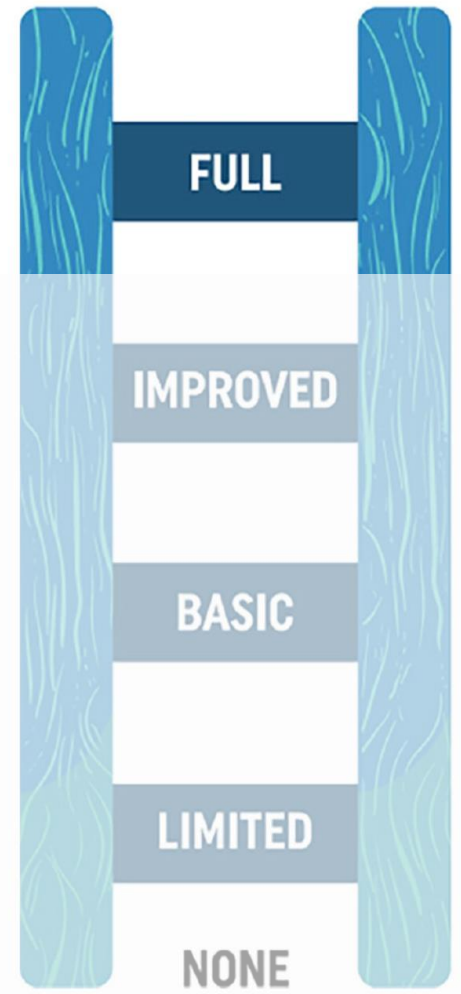
## **BASIC CONTROL:**

- Some use of cover material.
- Waste compacted with equipment available.
- Site fenced with access control.
- Some level of containment.
- Some run-off/leachate control.
- Appropriately staffed.
- Waste deliveries routinely weighed and recorded.
- Basic EHS measures.
- Zero evidence of burning.



## **IMPROVED CONTROL:**

- Some use of cover material.
- Waste compacted with equipment available.
- Site fenced with access control.
- Some level of containment.
- Some run-off/leachate control.
- Appropriately staffed.
- Waste deliveries routinely weighed and recorded.
- Basic EHS measures.
- Zero evidence of burning.



## **FULL CONTROL:**

- Waste covered daily.
- Waste layered and compacted.
- Site fenced and gated.
- Base liner system installed.
- Leachate containment and treatment (on or off site)
- Landfill gas managed.
- Designed and functioning as a sanitary landfill.
- Fully staffed.
- Waste loads weighed & weight and source recorded.
- Environmental Health & Safety measures.
- Has / will have post closure plan.

Controlled or uncontrolled?

0

Controlled

0

Uncontrolled



## Quiz n.3

# Controlled or Uncontrolled?



# Landfill Siting and Design



# Site Selection - In Theory

Ensure landfill is not on a restricted area:

- Floodplains/wetlands
- Highly permeable soils
- Ecologically sensitive zones
- Close to groundwater aquifers
- Fault areas/seismic impact zones
- Airport
- Access difficulty
- Proximity to populated areas
- Prime agricultural land

➔ Often very little options

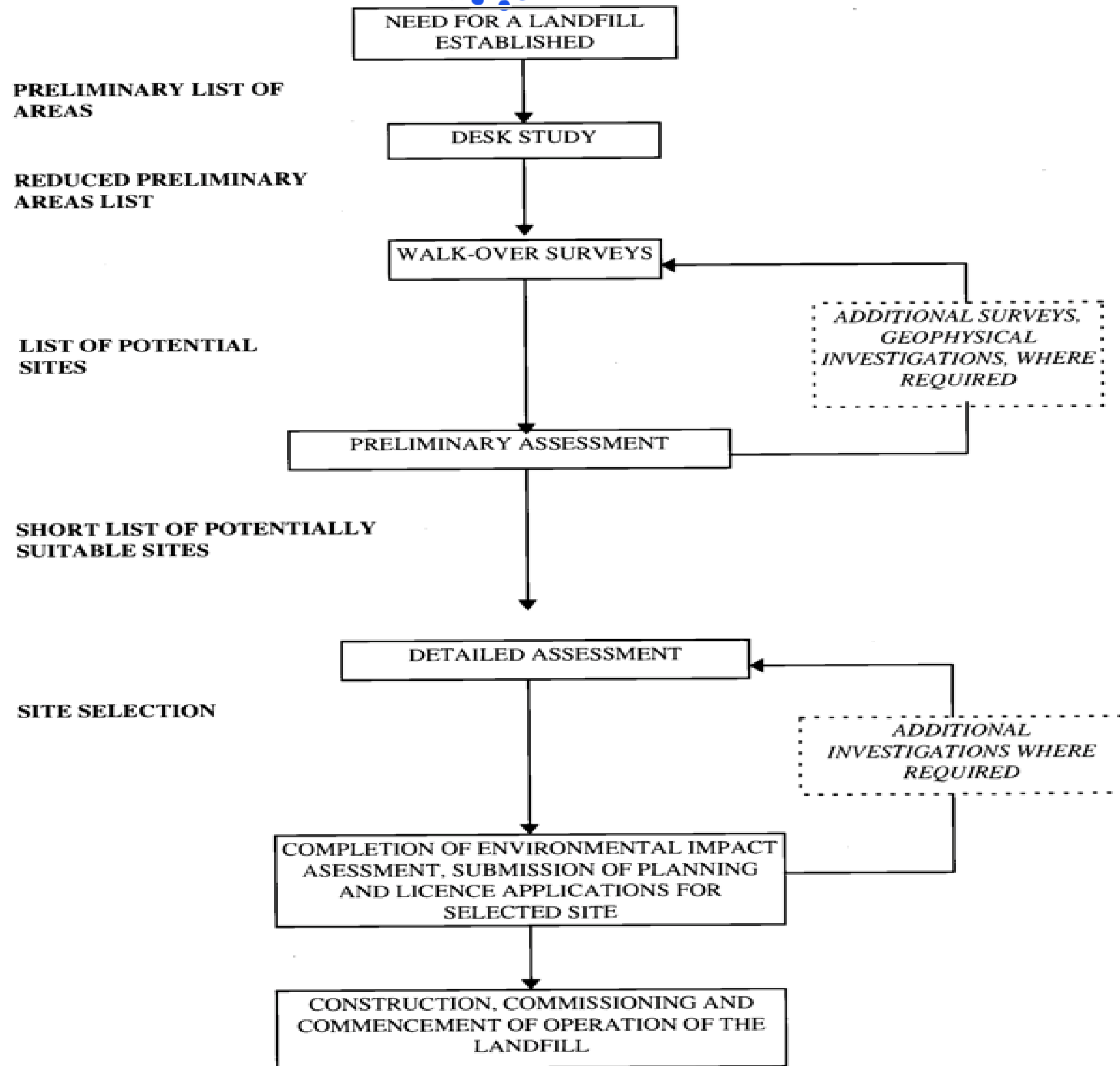


FIGURE 1: INVESTIGATIONS FOR A LANDFILL AND LINK TO SITE SELECTION

# Site Selection – In Practice

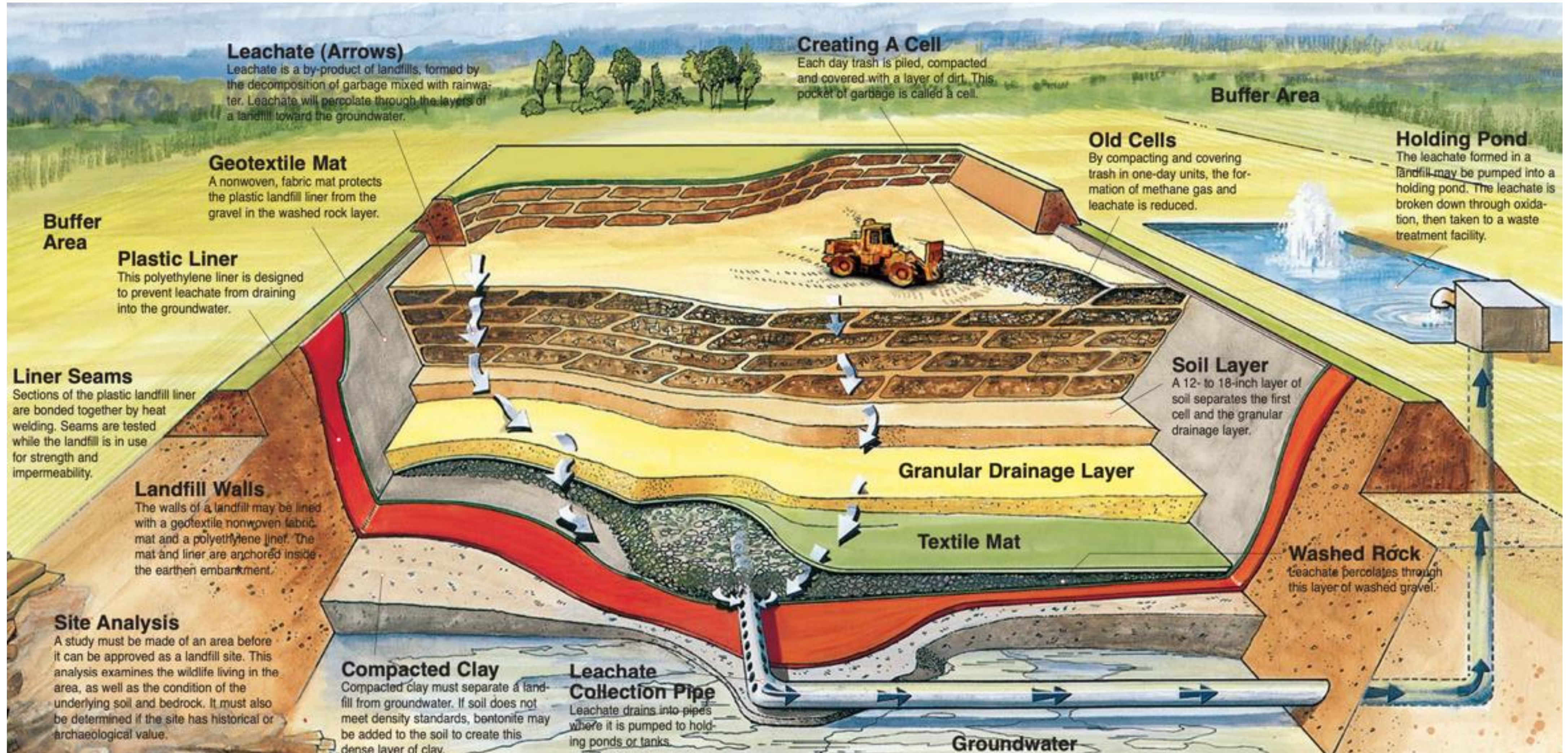
- Prudent to build around where waste is already going, if sustainable.
- Improve existing operational and environmental conditions.
- Balance environmental and social considerations.
- Land availability is crucial, site might geologically be complex but easily available without causing social problems.

Often.....

*'The waste has already found its way'*



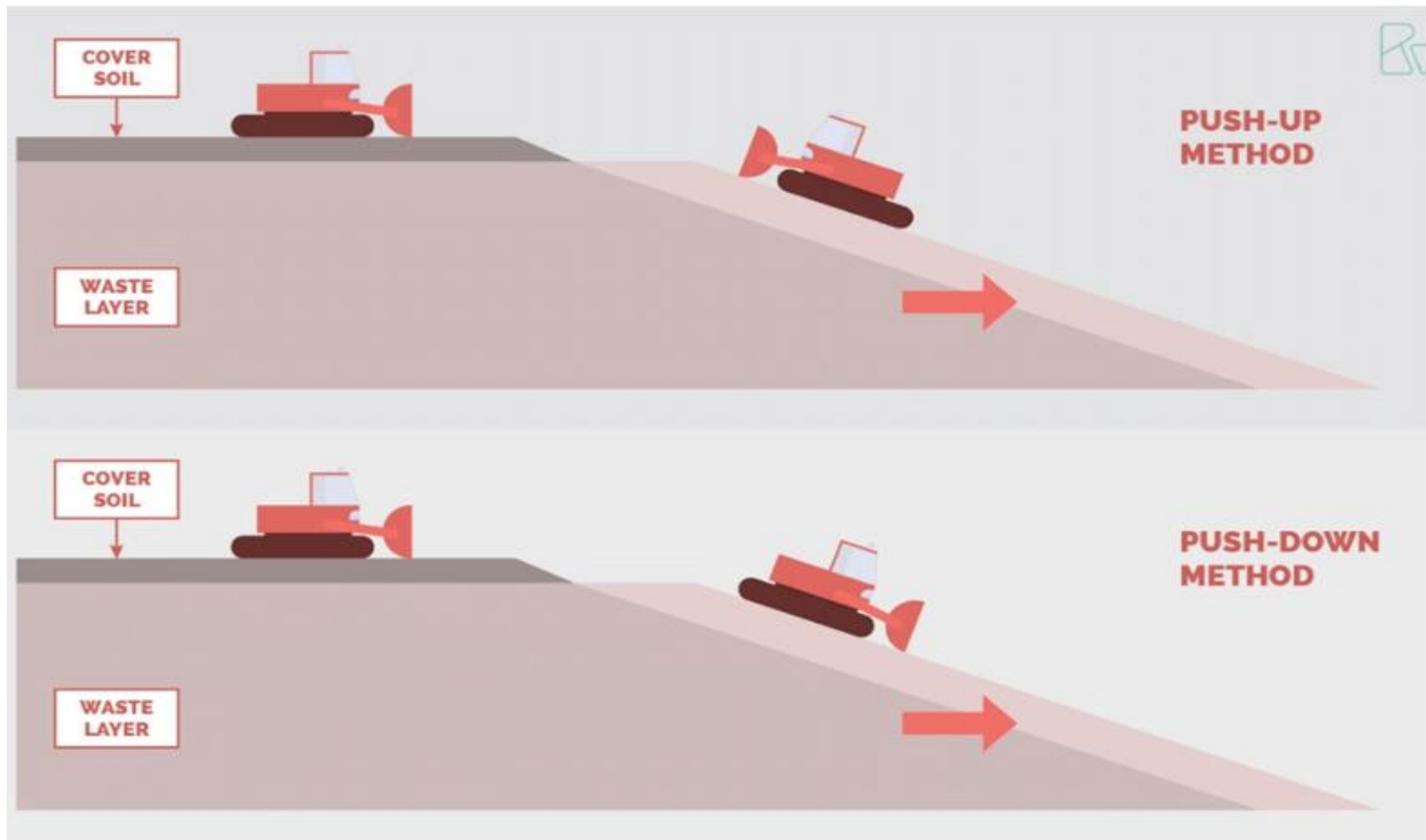
# European Standard Landfill





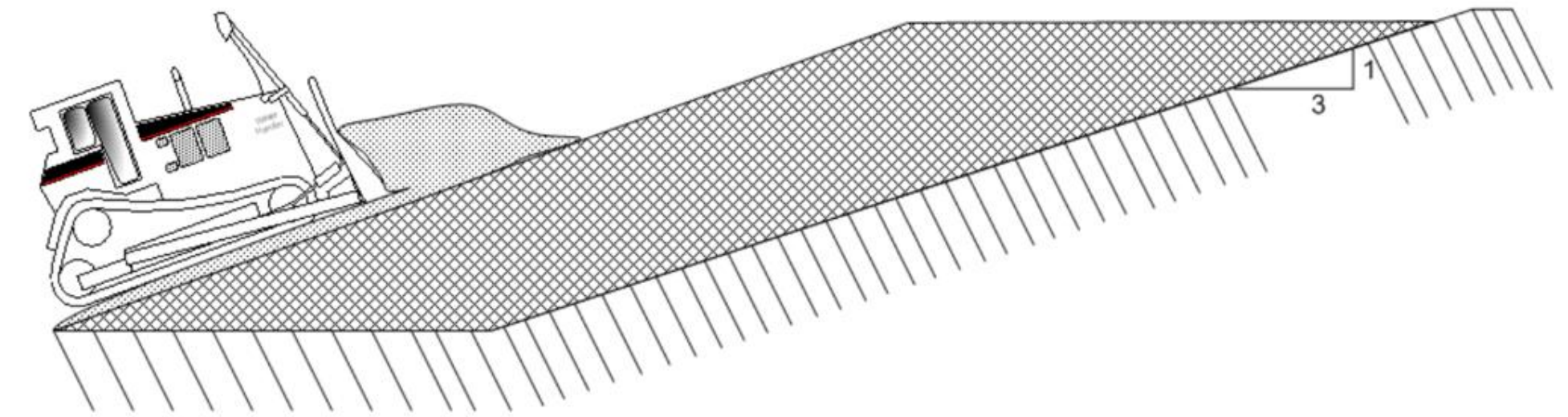
# Layering and compacting

© RWA Group



Source: Santek Environmental, 2024

# Covering of work face



© RWA Group

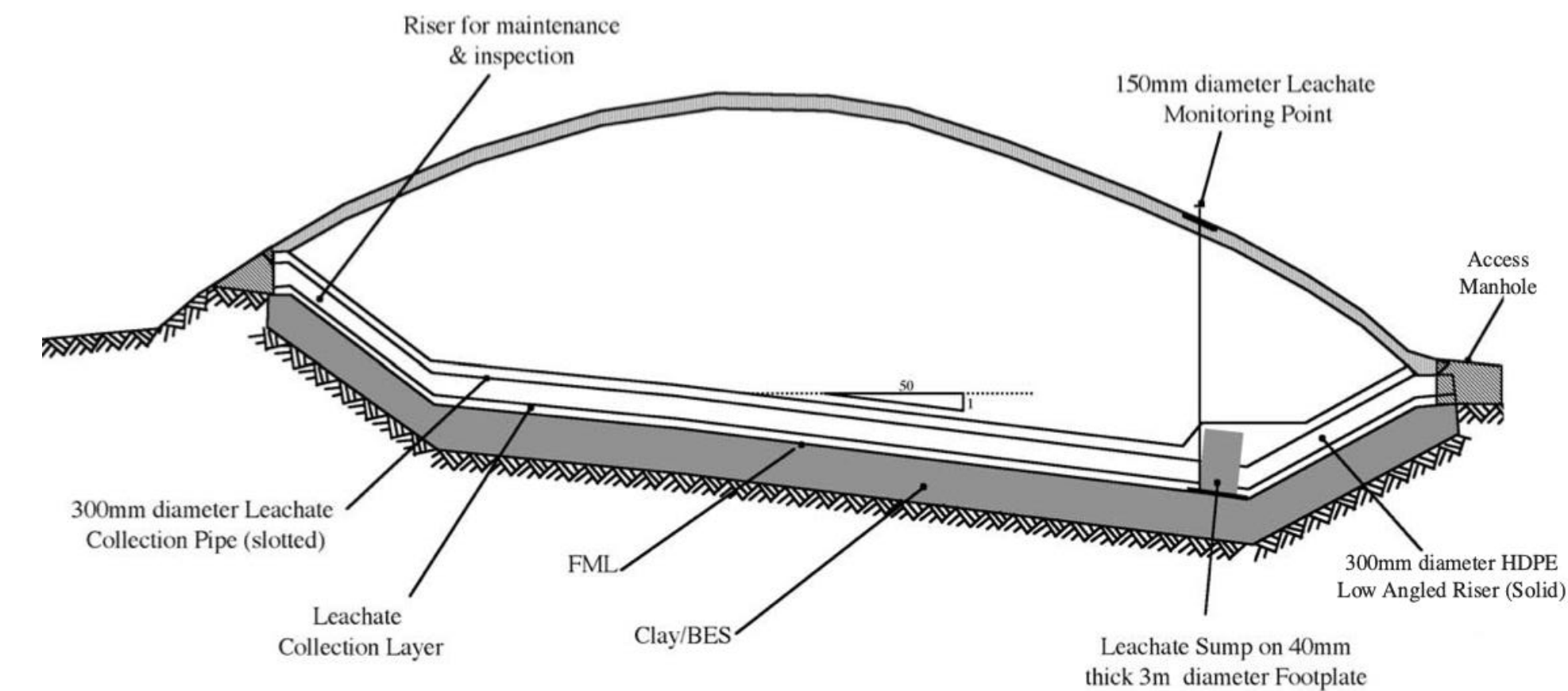
## Why?

- To avoid littering by wind
- To avoid attraction by wind
- To avoid bad smell

# Leachate management

Includes:

- **Collection** – to minimise head of leachate above liner.
- **Removal** – to transport collected leachate to designated location.
- **Treatment** – to remove harmful contaminants before discharge.



# Leachate treatment

- Range of different treatment technologies
- Selection depends on standards, site design parameters, and climatic conditions

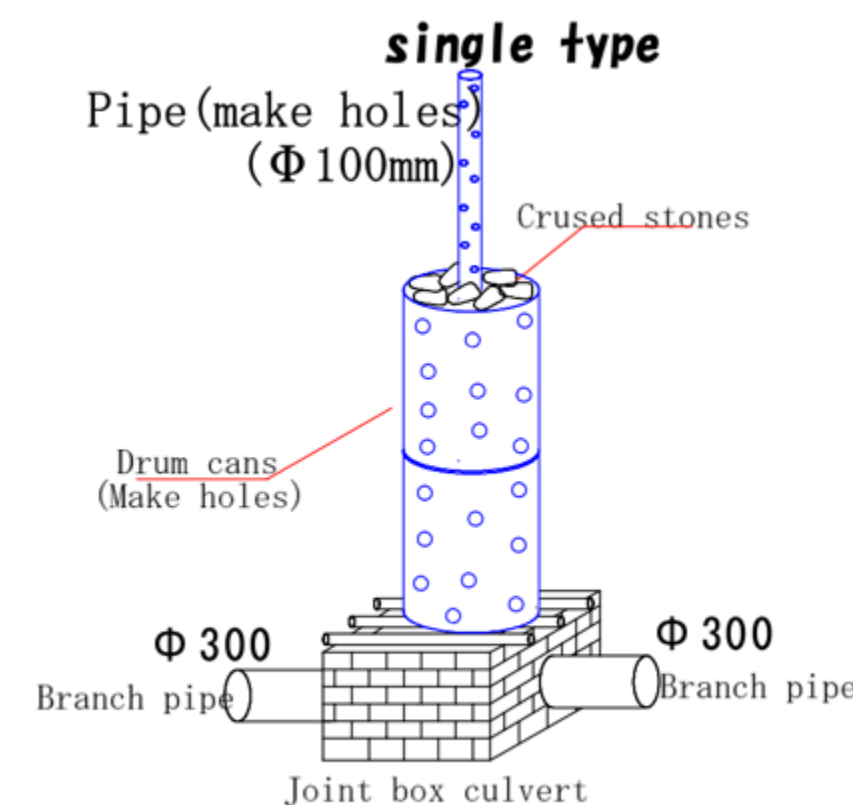


# Landfill Gas Management

Passive or active systems exist

## Benefits:

- Prevents gas build-up which may lead to combustion
- Minimise GHG emissions into atmosphere
- Minimise migration of gas beyond site
- Minimise damage to soil and vegetation

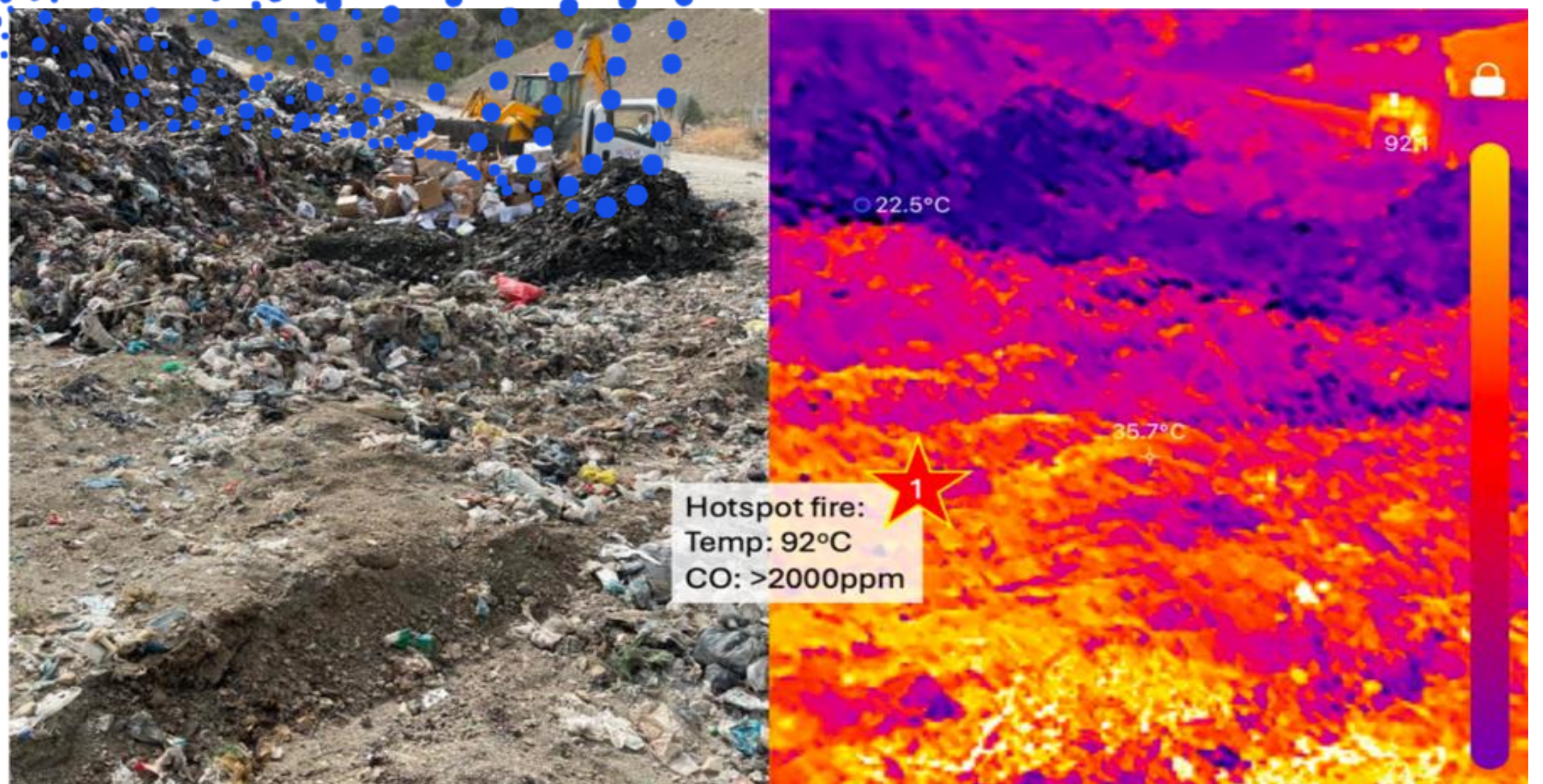


Gas vent (if utilisation/flaring not possible) © UN-Habitat

Gas utilisation © UN-Habitat



Health and Safety



Fire



Access and traffic control



Data collection

# Others Recovery Facilities





# Why waste recovery?

**Circular Economy**

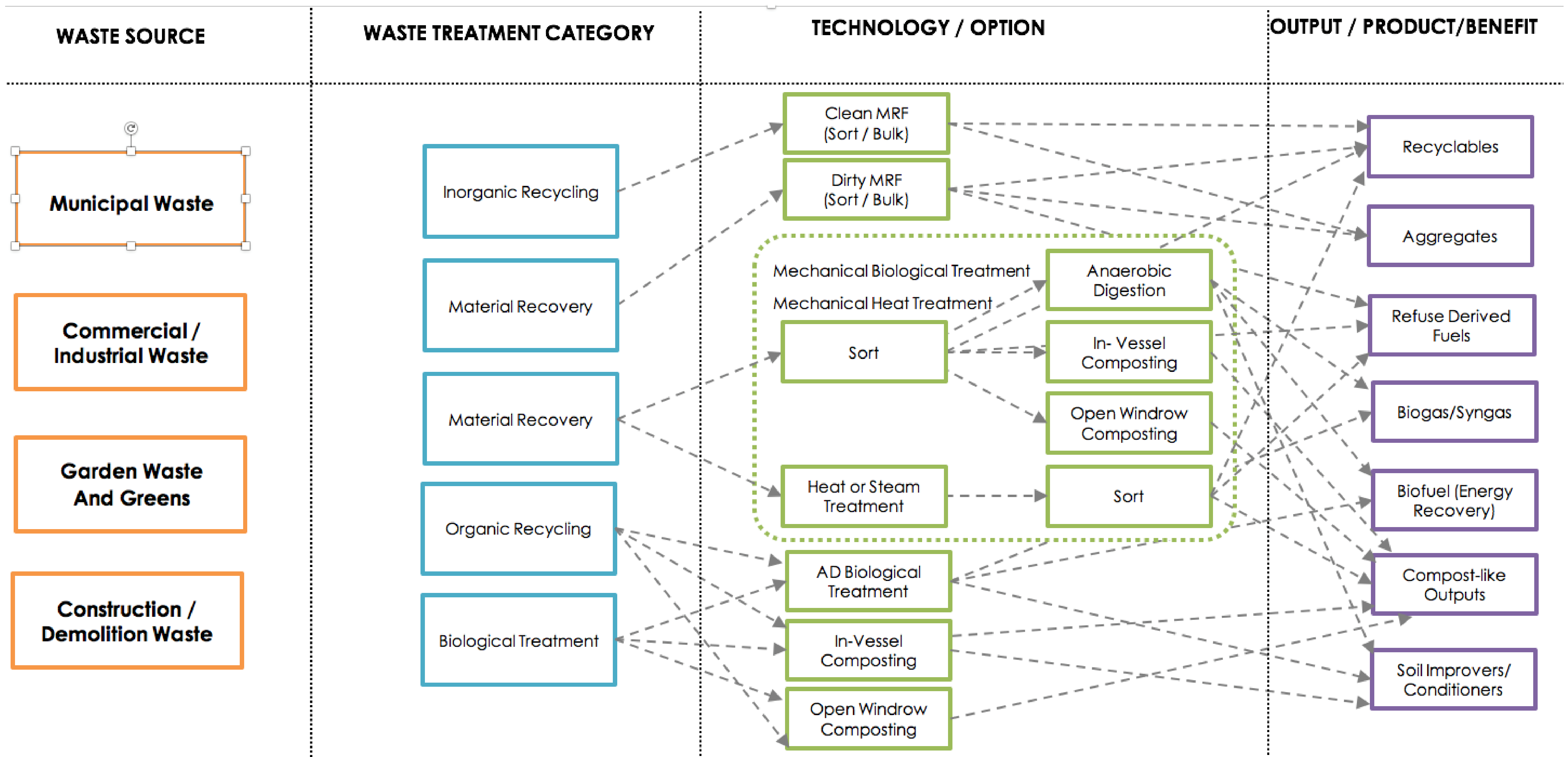
**Job Creation**

**Promoting Economy**

**Fuel/Energy Generation**

**Landfill Diversion**







# Proven Recovery/Treatment Systems

- Sorting/materials recovery for recyclables
- Composting of organic green waste for agricultural use
- Anaerobic digestion of wet organic waste to generate biogas for electricity or as liquified gas for transport and other purposes

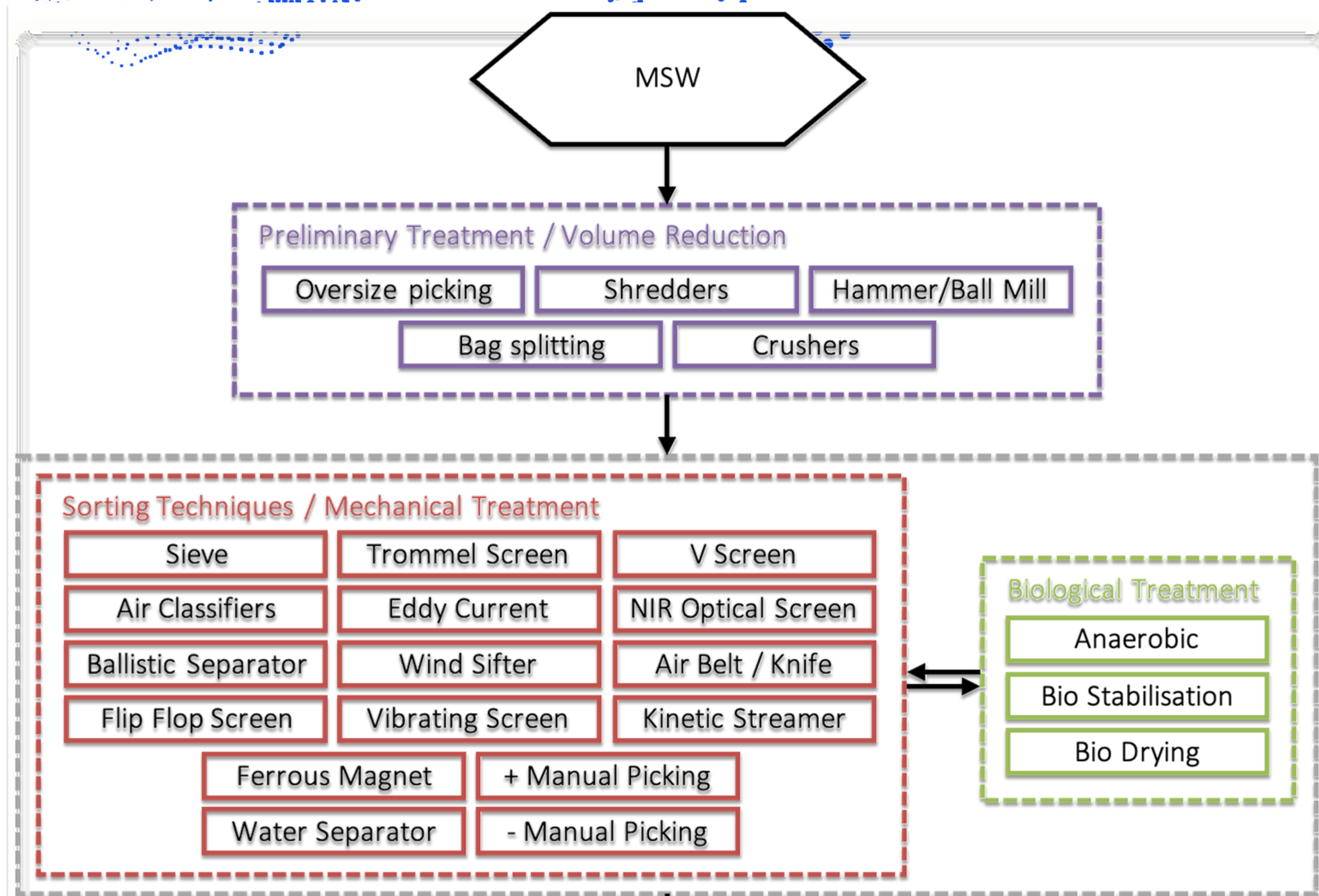
*... can be combined into mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities*

# Mechanical Biological Treatment



# Preliminary treatment

# Sorting techniques

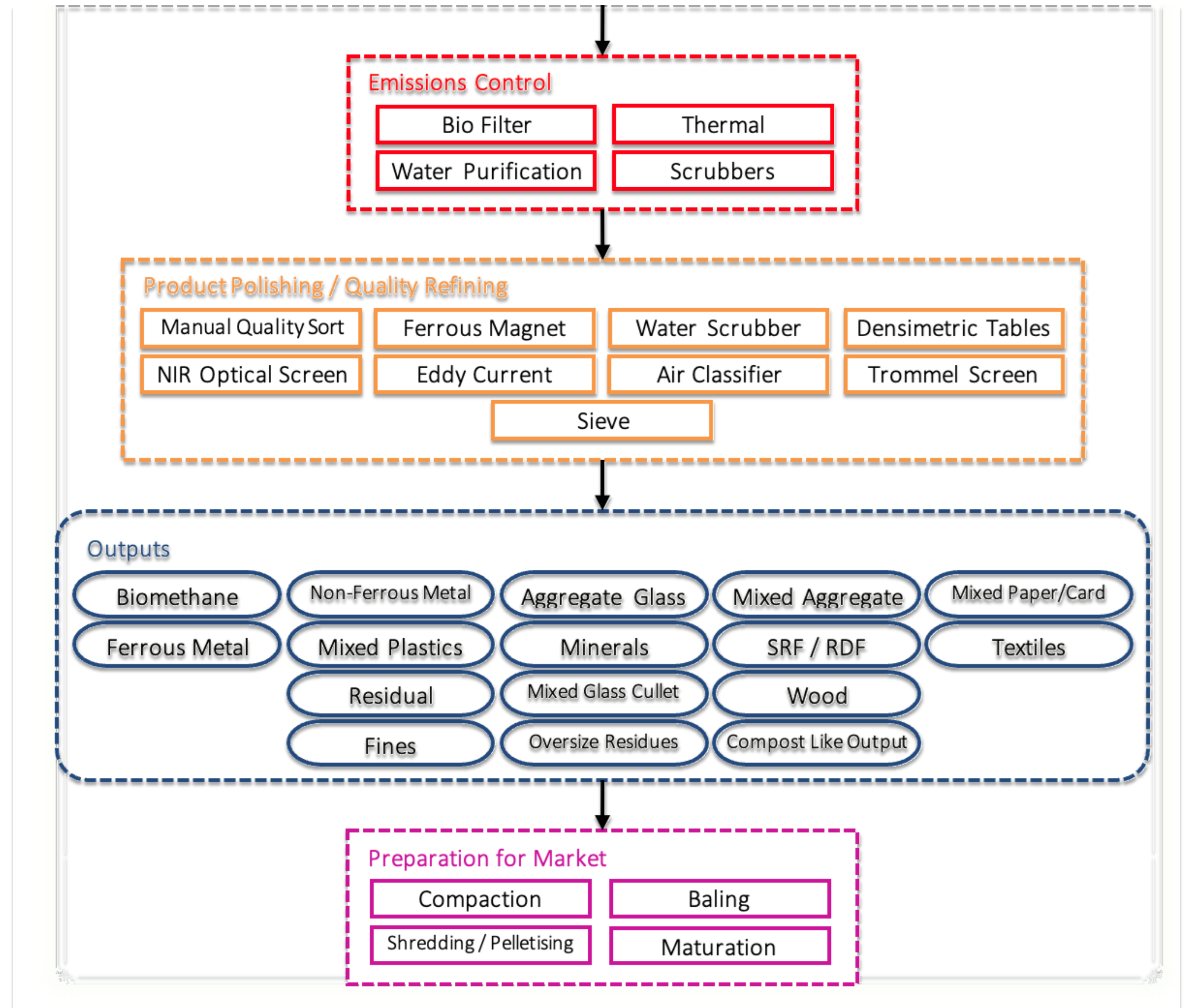


## Emissions control

## Product finishing

## Outputs

## Preparation for market

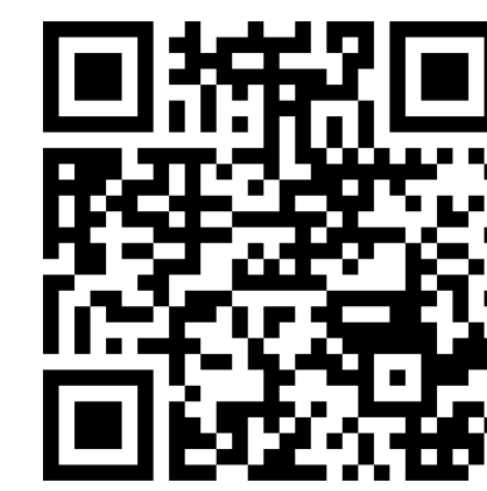




# What and Where is the demand?

Feasibility of waste treatment plants (recovery of recyclables and other output) depends very much on the off-taker:

- **Recyclables:** Are there plastic producers, cardboard manufacturer, scrap dealer => proximity to harbours for export.
- **Refuse derived fuel - RDF:** Proximity of cement factories maximum of 50 – 100 km.
- **Biogas:** Feed-in conditions for electricity, gas grid for bio-methane, transport fuel, industry.
- **Compost like output/Soil improvers/conditioners:** need in agriculture.

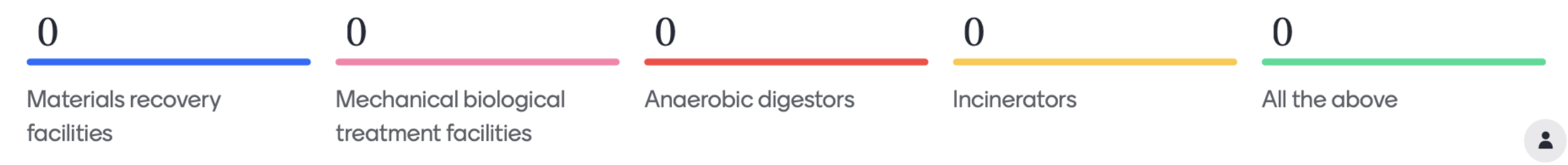


# Quiz n.4

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code 56719905



Which of these types of recovery facility can generate fuel or energy?



- Account
- Content
- Design
- Settings

Help & Feedback

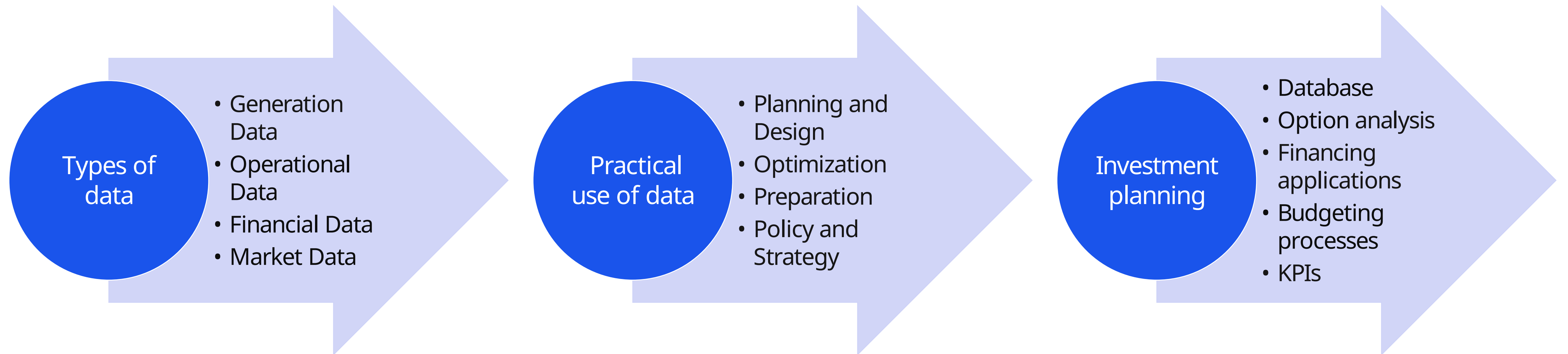
# Data and Planning







# Data and Large Investments





Baseline SWM data



Performance monitoring

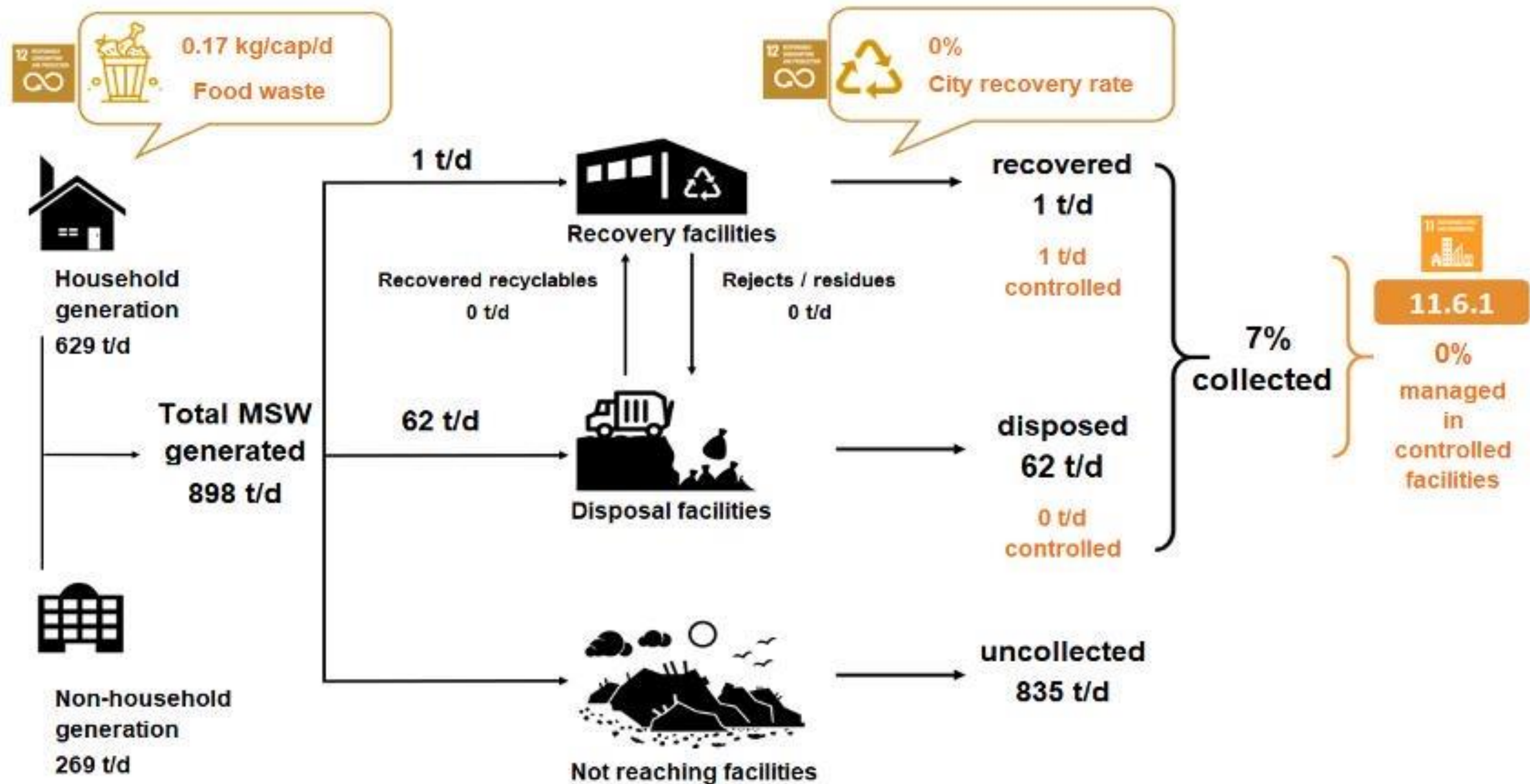


Impact assessment

# Waste Wise Cities Tool



# What data do we get out of the WaCT?





# Planning for sustainability

- **Make sure decisions are data-driven**
  - Establish a **Waste Information System** as a result of the data management approach
- Ensure **reasonable proximity** to offtake markets
- Right **balance of mechanical vs manual techniques**
- **Enhance managerial capacities** of the local administration to manage/administrate the investment
- Managing OPEX is crucial to sustainability
  - Improve financial

# Large Infrastructure Investments – Project Costs





# Landfill investment scenarios

## 1. Upgrading

### Priorities:

- Build fencing
- Management of waste pickers
- Build access road
- Fire control measures
- Layout for potential gas and leachate migration
- Slope stabilisation
- Surface drainage
- Access to mechanical equipment
- Soil cover

## 2. New site

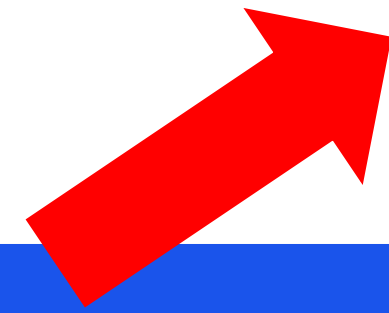
### To do from scratch:

- Site development (layout, preparation, materials, phasing, cells, bunding, cover material, landscaping)
- Site Infrastructure (Access and traffic control, accommodation, weighbridges, wheel cleaner, site services, security)
- Groundwater and surface water management
- Lining system
- Leachate management and treatment
- Landfill gas management
- Capping design and construction
- Health & Safety



**'No-regret' investment**

- upgrade uncontrolled disposal sites to at least basic control.
- While planning extensions or new sites



## 1. Upgrading

- Build fencing
- Management of waste pickers
- Build access road
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# Disposal site upgrading – CAPEX

Category	All in EURO Small-Scale	Medium-Scale	Large-Scale
<b>Capping and Closure</b>	100,000 - 300,000	300,000 - 1 million	1 million - 5 million+
<b>Leachate Management</b>	50,000 - 150,000	150,000 - 500,000	500,000 - 1 million+
<b>Gas Venting and Treatment</b>	50,000 - 100,000	100,000 - 300,000	300,000 - 1 million
<b>Post-Closure Care</b>	50,000 - 150,000 annually	150,000 - 500,000	500,000+
<b>Total CAPEX (Rehabilitation)</b>	<b>200,000 - 500,000</b>	<b>500,000 - 2 million</b>	<b>2 million - 7 million</b>

# New/Extension landfill - CAPEX

Category	Small-Scale Landfill (25,000 – 50,000 t/a) 50 - 100 t/day	Medium-Scale Landfill (80,000 – 200,000 t/a) 200 - 400 t/day	Large-Scale Landfill (200,000 – 500,000 t/a) 500 – 1,500 t/day
<b>Site Development</b>	Basic site layout, preparation, bunding, covering.	More complex layout, leachate, gas systems.	Advanced systems, including gas recovery, energy generation.
<b>Capping and Cover Systems</b>	200,000 - 500,000	500,000 - 2 million	2 million+
<b>Leachate Management</b>	50,000 - 200,000	200,000 - 500,000	500,000 - 2 million+
<b>Gas Management</b>	50,000 - 150,000	150,000 - 500,000	500,000 - 1 million+
<b>Environmental Monitoring</b>	50,000 - 100,000	100,000 - 300,000	300,000 - 1 million
<b>Total CAPEX (EUR)</b>	<b>1 million - 3 million</b>	<b>3 million - 10 million</b>	<b>10 million - 50 million+</b>

All in EUR

Source: RWA Group 2024

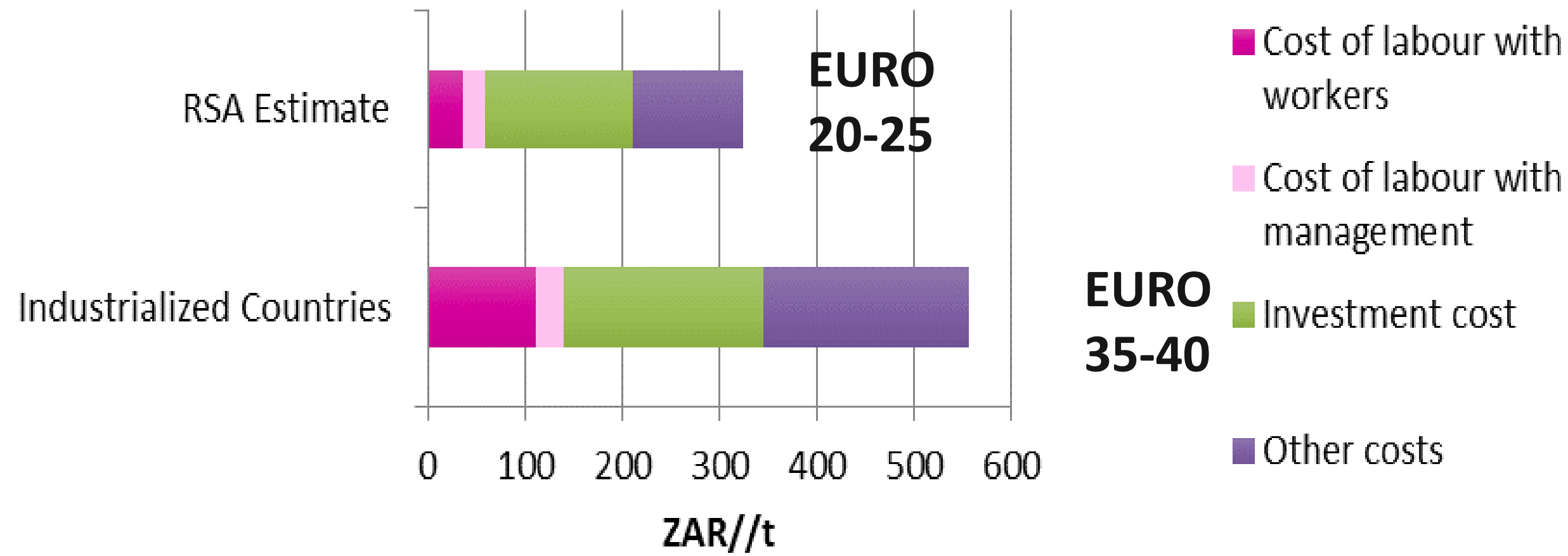
# Waste Recovery Plants - CAPEX

Category	Small-Scale Facilities (25,000 – 50,000 t/a)	Medium-Scale Facilities (80,000 – 200,000 t/a)	Large-Scale Facilities (200,000 – 500,000 t/a)
<b>Composting</b>	Simple windrow composting 200,000 - 500,000	Aerated systems in-house or membrane covered 1,500,000 – 3,000,000	Inhouse, highly mechanized with biofilters 10,000,000 – 50,000,000
<b>Material Recover Facilities</b>	Manual sorting, small scale equipment 500,000 – 1,000,000	Some mechanical sorting equipment (drum, manual sorting belt, baler) 2 -3 million	Highly mechanized sorting with Near infrared scanner and others 3 million+
<b>Mechanical-Biological Treatment (RDF)</b>	-	Combination of mechanical conditioning and biological treatment (mechanized) 15 – 20 Million	Combination of mechanical conditioning and biological treatment (mechanized) 50 Million
<b>Biodigestion</b>	Mechanized systems, dry/wet fermentation 10 - 15,000,000	Highly mechanized, wet system 20 – 25,000,000	Not usual + 50,000,000

All in EUR

Source: RWA Group 2024

## Simple MBT



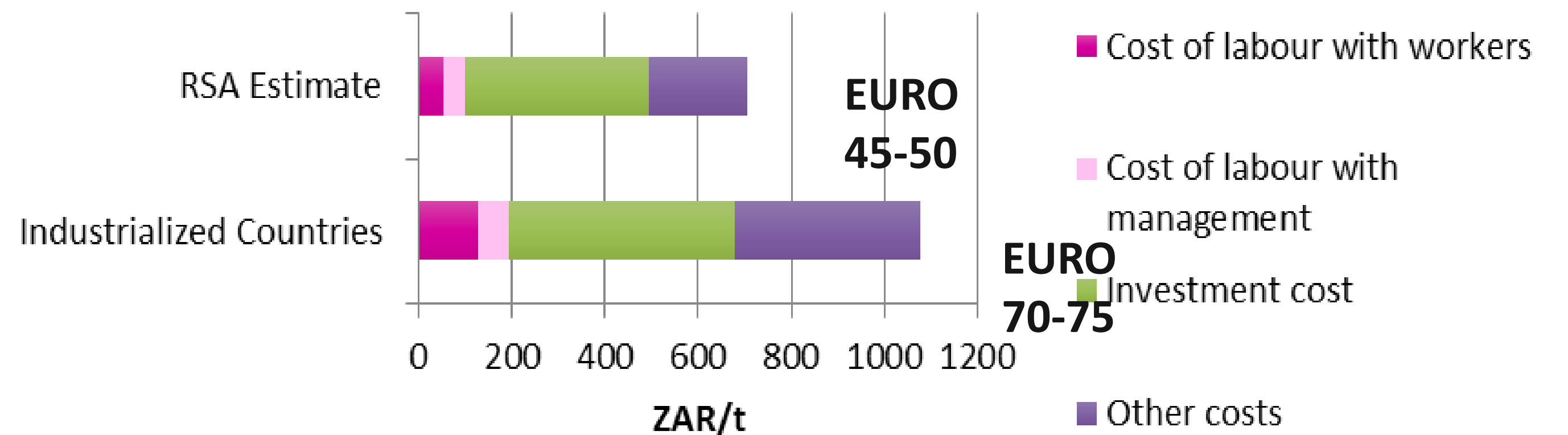
At that time Euro:  
ZAR exchange rate  
was about 15

# MBT costs

## Fixed vs variable costs

Source: KfW Advanced Integrated Waste Management Programme, 2016

## MBT with intensive decomposition and fermentation



# Operating cost ranges

- Operation (and maintenance) budgets are key
- Costs increase with level of development
- Need to carefully balance goals setting with affordability considerations

	LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES	LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES	UPPER-MIDDLE INCOME-COUNTRIES	HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES
Collection and Transfer	18-47	28-70	47-94	84-188
Controlled Landfill to Sanitary Landfill	9-18	14-37	18-61	37-94
Open Dumping	1.8-7.5	2.8-9.4	-	-
Recycling	0-23	4.7-28	4.7-4.7	28-75
Composting	4.7-28	9-37	18-70	32-84

Table: Costs per tonnes (in EUR). Source: World Bank Solid Waste Community of Practice and Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Original costs in USD, converted to Euros at 2023 rates.

# What does success rely upon?





# Enabling framework

Large infrastructure investments need enabling framework conditions in place to be successful

- Policies and institutions
- Inclusivity
- Financial sustainability
- Legal/regulatory
- Institutional/organisational
- Planning
- Private sector participation
- International development partnerships

# Capacity building







# Quiz n.5

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code 5671 9905



When is the 'sweet spot' for **capacity building** and **technical assistance** in SWM in cities?



# Topics Overview

Welcoming remarks.

## 1. Conceptual Introduction.

- What are large infrastructure investments in SWM?
- Large investment needs and priorities.

## 1. Deep dive: Focus on Technical Aspects.

- Technical systems and facilities
- Data and planning
- Costs
- What does success rely upon?

## 3. Ask the Expert Session.





# Ask the Experts Session

## **Andrew Whiteman**

Director, Resources and Waste  
Advisory Group

## **Bernhard Schenk**

Solid Waste Management Expert  
SWM Webinar Series Coordinator

Dear Participants:

- Please raise your hand, introduce yourself and ask your question.
- Ask your question to the experts.

\* If you prefer to use the chat, please write a message: introduce yourself and ask your question.

# Thank you!

Please give us your opinion on the Webinar  
on SWM Large Infrastructure Investments.

Use the QR code or link:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/ZiXWQX4FtR>

SWM Webinar 2: Large Infrastructure  
Investments



#### **INTPA F4 - Urban Development Technical Facility UDTF.**

The UDTF focuses on supporting partner countries in their urban development challenges. It delivers technical assistance and policy advice to improve the quality and impact of the EU's interventions in urban development at all levels - local, regional and global - with a focus on Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

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